

Ulster

peace

close,

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

deal is so

says Blair

AGREEMENT on a peace settlement for Northern Ireland was described by Tony Blair yesterday as "agonisingly close" but the difficulties were underlined last night when the Ulster

Unionist leader, David Trimble, said Sinn Fein could continue to be barred from the talks. Mr Trimble said the RUC believed "IRA elements" were involved in the killing of Kevin

Conway, a Catholic man. Se-

curity minister Adam Ingram

said in a Commons written an-

swer that "it is the RUC's as-

sessment that local IRA

elements were involved in the

murder although no charges

have yet been brought". Mr

Conway's killing was not one of

the two IRA murders for which

Sinn Fein has already been

temporarily expelled from the

The Ulster Unionists also

threatened not to sign a peace

settlement on Northern Ire-

land unless the IRA began decommissioning some of its

weapons after a day of Down-

ing Street diplomacy by Mr

on track. Gerry Adams, the Sinn

Fein leader, saw Mr Blair at

Downing Street yesterday

morning, and then flew to the

United States with a clear sig-

nal that his party will return to

the round-table talks around 23

March after "positive and con-

structive" talks with the Prime

Minister. Mr Trimble saw Mr

bornly optimistic" about reach-

ing a peace settlement by

Easter, ready for a referendum on both sides of the bor-

der in May. He and Bertie

Ahera, the Irish Prime Minis-

ter, discussed Ulster at a European Union meeting in

London, before Mr Blair met

The Ulster Unionist leader

Mr Blair said he was "stub-

Blair yesterday evening.

Blair to keep the talks proce

peace process.

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

150 sex offenders to go free without controls

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

UP TO 150 sex offenders, including at least six notorious paedophiles considered a seri- had disclosed that there are 150 ous risk to children, are to be more sex offenders, who like released from jail without supervision within the next two years, it was revealed vesterday.

The police, probation and social services, are becoming increasingly alarmed at their apparent powerlessness to deal with dozens of convicted sex criminals who have escaped new laws which clamp down on rapists and paedophiles.

Alun Michael, the Home Of- a 19-year term. fice minister, will be urged in a meeting next Thursday to inpected serious sex criminals. provide greater secure accommodation for newly-released offenders, and to close the loophole that allows dangerous former convicts to go unsupervised into society.

The case of child killer Robert Oliver was used yester- and released early. day to illustrate the problem. Police revealed that he arrived in Brighton, Sussex, last October and met up with a convicted paedophile before visiting the children's section of Hove library. the pier, and the beach to watch children. The police were unable to intervene, despite experts assessment of him as a "very high risk" who "clearly still had an interest in young boys."

Sussex Police also disclosed that it has spent about £100,000 accommodating Oliver in a cell for four months for his protection and is currently paying £320 a day to keep him in a se- ers. cure private clinic in Milton

Oliver was released from

of 14-year-old Jason Swift.

Penny Buller, chief probation officer for East Sussex, told a conference in London yesterday that the Home Office Oliver, are due to be released from prison without supervision over the next two years. Among the offenders are six dangerous paedophiles, described as posing a serious risk to the public, including Sidney Cooke, a member of the gang which raped and killed Jason Swift. He is due to leave prison next month after serving 11 years of

The legal loophole has been created by the Criminal Justice troduce a new register of sus- Act 1991which only obliges people convicted of a sex offence after 1992 to have supervision, usually by the probation service, when they are released. Ironically, offenders sentenced before 1992 would get supervision only if they were considered low risk

> All people who commit a serious sexual crime are placed on the new sex offenders register which is supposed to allow the police to keep track of them, but critics argue this does little to prevent reoffending.

Ms Buller told the conference on sexual offending that she spent four months trying to find somewhere to put Oliver after he asked for police protection: The police even tried a religious retreat in the Outer Hebrides. She warned the enisode would be repeated with other dangerous sex offend-

"The predatory, violent paedophile is a rarity but when the half dozen come out of jail withprison last September after out supervision this is going to serving eight years of a 15-year cause an immense amount of sentence for the manslaughter concern," she said.

Today's news

The inquiry into the loss of the British bulk carrier Derbyshire

which went down in a typhoon off Japan in 1980, is to be

Prostate cancer in men is set to become the commonest form

The number of under-age pregnancies has hit a 10-year peak.

Derbyshire inquiry to be re-opened

Prostate 'to be commonest cancer'

Under-age pregnancies hit a high

In 1996, 8,800 girls under 16 became pregnant.

re-opened it was announced vesterday.

of cancer within the next 20 years.

It could be us: 1000-1 chance of asteroid hitting Earth



Charles Arthur, Science Editor. An asthe Earth: and there's a chance - very much higher than of a lottery win - that unless we take some avoiding action, it will hit us and wipe out civilisation.

Discovered last year, and known as 1997 XV11, the object is certain to pass might collide: 6.30pm GMT, Thursday, 26 October 2028. What they can't anto calculate, is whether it will actual- ulation could be wiped out." An

PERHAPS THAT 30-year mortgage by hit us or simply whistle harmlessly asteroid four times larger almost certeroid a mile wide is whirling towards 1 in 1,000 because of the errors inherent in calculating its orbit.

An impact would be literally earthshaking, unleashing the energy of 100,000 hydrogen bombs, causing tidal waves, atmospheric shocks and throwing dust into the air which could induce closer than the Moon to the Earth. As- a new Ice Age. "It would cause a globtronomers even know when worlds al catastrophe," said Mark Bailey of the Armagh Observatory, an astronomer who takes a close interest in such asswer yet, and may need another year teroids. "A quarter of the world's pop-

sent, the odds of an impact are put at hit the Earth 65 million years ago.

Benny Peiser, an anthropologist at Liverpool's John Moore's University who has made a special study of the potential effect of asteroid impacts, said: "We would regress to the level of the Dark Ages. All the trappings of modern life would be totally gone." But, he said, "the Government has completely ignored the whole area and the whole subject. We need a clear research strategy and funding for a detecting system of observatories scanning the sky

Scientists will get a chance to de lision course in 2002, when its orbit next brings it near the Earth.

If Earth does have a bullseve painted on it, then H-bombs - once regarded as a threat to civilisation - might be its saviour. Professor Bailey explained: "The idea would be to give it a kick without blowing it into smaller pieces. You could detonate a warhead just off its surface, so it vapourises the dast layer: the jet effect would then divert it. But you would want to be very sure you weren't making it worse and diverting it closer."

Labour may offer luvvies seats on the board

for these objects."

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

THEY have eaten countless overpriced fund-raising dinners, given time and money to the cause and sipped champagne at Downing Street drinks parties. Now Luvvies for Labour could be offered a re-

ward - seats on the board. Anxious to avoid a repetition.

National Executive Commitheadquarters have suggested fielding a celebrity team this

Names suggested so far include the Eastenders actor Ross them from standing. Kemp, authors Ken Follett and Melvyn Bragg, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson and former athlete Steve Cram.

Among other arty types who elections to the party's ruling Labour are the actor Jeremy

Irons, film producer David Put- dreds of people might stand, tee, officials at the Millbank mam, director Richard Atten- none of whose names would be borough and author Ruth familiar to most members. Rendell. Strangely, all of these are now in the House of Lords. though this will not prevent

Last night a Labour spokesman said the party's campaign team had made the "semi-serious" suggestion of a celebrity line-up, reported in toof last year's left-wing rout in have made large donations to day's Tribune newspaper. There

"The idea has been discussed, but in the end it isn't for people here to decide who stands for the NEC. People suggested as a sort of joke that you could see well-known celebrities standing," he said.

However, it would be up to individuals to out their names forward because there would be no official slates.

None of the celebrities suggested were available yesterday to say whether they relished attending monthly discussions on

There was also some doubt about whether all Labour's fashionable friends are still loyal to Tony Blair. Even Ken Follett and his wife Barbara, previously at the centre of the Blairite glitterati, hosted a party recently at Number 11, home of Chancellor Gordon Brown.

party rules, though.

reinforced growing Unionist demands for progress on decommissioning before putting a settlement to their supporters. The issue of decommissioning has been dealt with in parallel with the talks, but the Unionist leaders are angry at what they believe are too many concessions to the Republicans. Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told Unionists: "We all want de-

Mr Trimble.

cannot force people to do it." Mr Adams emphasised the importance attached by Sinn Fein to the release of IRA prisoners as a result of a peace deal. Turn to page 2

commissioning ... However, I



Ferrari boss tempts Schumacher with £52m and a job for life

were fears that literally hun-

By Nick Duxbury

THE PREDATORS circling the Ferrari camp looking for a sniff of Michael Schumacher have unnerved the prancing horse marque to the extent that they are prepared to offer the German driver a career with them.

Bild say that Fiat, who own Ferrari, are other three years followed by a lifetime 103 grands prix and won 27.

determined to prevent Schumacher, job as the company's roving ambassador. twice a world champion, joining Willi Weber, Schumacher's manager, McLaren-Mercedes next season, Schu-said: "I prefer not to say anything, just macher, currently paid £17.5m a year, has a contract with the Italian Grand Prix far." team until the end of next season.

However, the head of Fiat, Gianni further £52m to see out his Formula One Agnelli, is reported to have approved a season, is still regarded as the best in the new contract that would keep the 29- business and one of the greatest racing Reports in the German newspaper year-old Schumacher at Ferrari for andrivers of all time. He has competed in

this: there have been no negotiations so

Schumacher, despite losing the world championship to Jacques Villeneuve last

As well as McLaren, being in the frame for his services, the British American Racing team, who have taken over Tyrrell, have made no secret of their interest. Craig Pollock, BAR's team chief, would like to pair Schumacher with Villeneuve in 1999.

"If I can go for Jacques Villeneuve I can go for Michael Schumacher," Pollock said recently. A comment that Ferrari have taken to heart.

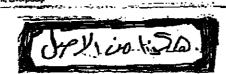
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MPs in trouble for backing party policy

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Labour MPs calling for a Commonsbased Secretary of State for Justice scenes Cabinet committees. to replace the Lord Chancellor were under pressure from the whips last night - even though their demand upholds existing party policy.

The policy was included in Labour's 1992 election manifesto, but it was dropped by Tony Blair in time for last year's election. By that stage. Mr Blair had already decided Lord

Irvine of Lairg, head of his legal chambers when he was a barrister, would become Lord Chancellor and an influential player in behind-the-

Government whips were yesterday piling the pressure on Labour MPs to pull their names off the Commons motion calling for the creation of a new Department of Justice, with a Secretary of State answerable to the Commons. The motion, tabled by Labour backbencher Robert Marshall-Andrews QC, has upset the par-

ty hierarchy because it coincides was still learning about the rough and with Tory attacks on Lord Irvine.

The Commons motion, which "unhelpful" criticism of the current Lord Chancellor's lack of accountability, as a minister in the Lords. Up more living time in than you, can also to yesterday morning, three Labour MPs had withdrawn their support.

But Lord Irvine last night appeared to make light of his difficulties in a speech to Oxford University Labour Club, when he suggested he

John Smith Memorial Lecture, Lord had been signed by 87 MPs within 24 Irvine said the Government had set hours, was officially regarded as an out to promote life-long learning among those beyond school-age, "because we, who have got a little

> now and again". Lord Irvine said John Smith, the late Labour leader, had also been disturbed by the declining strength of Parliament as a means of holding the an elected member of the Commons.

benefit from a touch of education

executive to account. "He argued for so that ordinary people could better understand how Parliament worked and why it was important that it worked well. He described the hereditary principle in the House of Lords as 'bizarre' and supported its aboli-

But the Commons motion, and the 1992 manifesto, went one step further, urging the executive role of the Lord Chancellor to be taken on by

Brian Sedgemore, one of the tumble of politics. Delivering the the modernisation of its procedures Labour signatories of the motion, said last night that he had received an invitation to meet Lord Irvine on Monday - something he welcomed as

a "charm offensive,"
The MP said that he had always supported the creation of a separate Department of Justice, as a countervailing power to the Home Office, which acts as a Ministry of the Interior, with responsibility for immigration, the police, prisons; and security in general."

TOMORROW

Beano for a dandy: The artist who shocked the 1890s, Aubrey . Beardsley, is having a birthday bash

■ What a gas: Michael Arditti on a new novel about the politics of soft drinks

■ Fashion queen: Can Wendy **Dagworthy** do for the Royal College of Art what she did for St Martin's?

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41.4% of the raw material for UK new papers in the first half of 1997.

Ulster peace deal 'is close' From page I Speaking in Downing Street after talks lasting almost an hour, Mr Adams touched on one of the most sensitive issues in the talks for the nationalists by acknowledging that a united Ireland could not be achieved

by the referendum in May. Like Mr Trimble, Mr Adams is playing a balancing act with his own supporters, and the London Government regards his public acceptance that a united Ireland cannot be achieved in the current talks process as a crucial step forward to securing a "yes" vote in Mav.

Mr Blair and the Sinn Fein team, led by Mr Adams, discussed details of the package being thrashed out in the talks. including a power-sharing assembly in Belfast, cross-border bodies, and joint arrangements between London and Dublin.

Mr Adams said he wanted Sinn Fein to return to the talks "at the earliest possible opportunity", probably in nine days' time after a Sinn Fein executive meeting endorsed the decision.

There was little doubt that after serving a two-week suspension for two killings linked to the IRA, Sinn Fein would return to the talks, and Mr Adams made the most of the face-toface meeting with the Prime Minister before flying to the United States to join his party's chief negotiator, Martin Day celebrations hosted next

week by President BillClinton. He said that Republicans remained committed to securing a lasting settlement for Northem Ireland, but stressed that Sinn Fein viewed any agreement as being part of a "rolling process" and that they remained committed to their long term aim of a united Ireland.

Irish question: Gerry Adams talks to Sinn Fein's only southern Irish MP, Caoimhghin O'Caolain, after meeting Mr Blair at Downing Street yesterday Hague embraces Blair's community values WILLIAM HAGUE last night retreated from his party's leader told a convention of Thatcherite "obsession" with the Australian Liberal Party in also understand that society is their children to be decent cit- and sustain each other. The become part of a European sueconomics and joined Tony Brisbane: "I am immensely more than just a marketplace izens, that reinforce local com- same is true of communities

to the new Conservative agenda, writes Anthony Bevins. Mr Blair used "community" as one of the key elements of his Labour leadership back in 1994, deliberately exploiting Margaret Thatcher's perceived

social breakdown

servative Party and its leaders achieved for my country and for the world."

However, he added: "Like many centre-right parties around the world, the Conservative Party came to be seen as repudiation of society as the being a party obsessed with spring-board for an attack on economics. That was not Conservative selfishness and surprising since so many of the challenges of the 1980s

The new Conservative were economic challenges. the only relationship is between buyer and seller. There are ties of family and community and nation that mean more than prices on a shop counter

> will ever do." Mr Hague said his party would work to strengthen those ties. "Over the coming years," he said, "the Conservative Party will develop policies that help

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families, that support parents Blair said: "Families work best "But British Conservatives who are trying to bring up when the members of it help the Tories allowing Britain to and that preserve our democracy and national identity".

A recognition that the country's sense of community had been lost, if not destroyed, and needed to be rebuilt, was one of the distinctive selling points of Mr Blair's leadership.

In his first party conference speech as Labour leader, at Blackpool, in October 1994, Mr rope, repeating the warning

"Community is not some piece of nostalgia. It means what we share. It means working together, it is about how we treat each other... The Tories despise such principles."

Against that benchmark, last night's political shift by Mr Hague was remarkable enough. But he stood firm on Euperstate - a threat that the miss as dangerous fantasy. Mr Hague said: "Asserting the importance of national

Photograph: David Rose

identity is not the same as being little Englanders. "We believe Britain has a

leading role to play in the future of the European Union. But we also believe Britain has a global role that goes beyond the confines of Europe."

nerica shows infrom rich d

WEATHER



little suretime breaking through at times. Other areas will chtzte in the north and west. Drizzle is most likely in the far south-west of England, and in the north and west of Northern beland and Scotland, where some bill tog is likely.

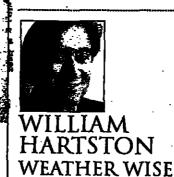
Outlook for the next few days ligh pressure to the south-west of the UK will be maintained. However, a weak horital system will cross Scotland then move south down the North Sea on Saturday. This will bring a little light rain to some northern and eastern parts but essentere will be dry. It will remain mild everywhere. Sunday will also be mild and mostly dry with some decent spells of

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Atlantic chart, noon today



THE authorities in Singapore this week announced a new public campaign to reduce the number of people hit by lightning. Last year, six people were killed by lightning, and nine died in the previous year -which is roughly the same as the number of deaths from lightning

in Britain, where the population is Singapore, in fact, has one of the highest rates of lightningstrikes in the world, with 20 per square kilometre per year. Because of that, the present plans include the construction of lightning shelters in parks and on beaches, the installation of a 15,000 Singapore dollars (about £6,000) thunderstorm early warning system in every school, anti-lightning netting over school entrances and bus shelters, setting up a lightning safety hot line, and a programme of education about the hazards of lightning. Presumably this would include such sensible advice as not to use the lightning hotline when

A complete scientific explanation of lightning has still not been found. At a high level in the atmosphere, the ionosphere carries a positive electric charge thanks to radiation. The Earth, however, is negatively charged during fine weather, so cloud droplets may acquire an induced positive charge

thunderstorms are about.

on their Earth-facing sides, and a negative charge on their upper sides. The breakup of raindrops and splintering of ice crystals, however, both increase the separation of electric charges of opposite sign, but the mathematical models of electrical behaviour within clouds does not quite tally with measurements taken. Generally, clouds tend to be positively charged at the top, and negatively at the bottom, but some anomalous patches of electrical activity occur within clouds that

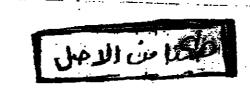
have so far defied explanation. Lightning occurs when a high negative charge at the bottom of a cloud induces a positive charge on the ground beneath it. When these electrical forces are large enough, they will overcome the resistance of the air and a flash will come down from the cloud to bridge the gap in the circuit. It will be met by a return stroke from the ground, but since both travel at about a third of the speed of light, the two flashes appear as one. Further strokes flash back and forth until the cloud has drained its negative charge. The temperature of the lightning flash is around 30,000C, which creates a rapid expansion of the air around its channel, resulting in the shock waves

of sound that we hear as thunder. According to a paper in the Journal of Meteorology in 1991 ("Lightning Deaths and Sex", by, Paul R Brown), statistics show that men are six times as likely as women to be killed by lightning. This, he suggests, is simply because men are more likely than women to be outside in exposed areas. Or, to put it simply, men play golf.

If you are hit by lightning, you may die from the burns, or more: likely from the jolt of electricity that the action of the Sun's ultraviolet can cause heart failure. Nevertheless, records show that nine out of 10 people struck by lightning survive. Holding a golf club, however, greatly shortens the odds.

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By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

PROSTATE cancer in men is set to top the cancer league within 20 years. The rapid rise in the disease is being fuelled by the ageing of the population and increased awareness, making it urgent that a means of identifying those at risk is found, Professor Colin Cooper, of the Institute of Cancer Research, said yesterday.

commonest cancer behind those of the lung, breast and bowel. Cases of the cancer have risen by half in the UK in the last two decades to 16,000 a year, but in the US where screening is widespread they have soared three-fold to almost 200,000 cases a year.

The institute is developing a two-stage test that would not only detect the presence of the cancer, but would also identify those men in whom it was likely to progress rapidly.

The prostate is the gland at the base of the bladder which makes the seminal fluid in which the sperm swim. Despite the improved detection rate in the US there had been no fall n deaths up to 1993, the latest year for which figures were available, Professor Cooper said. That could now change. Early reports from North America suggested there had

"If it turns out that screening leads to a reduction in deaths in the US there will be overwhelming pressure to introduce the test here. Potentially, warts and is known to be prewhat could create a problem for sent in almost all cases of cerus which is why we need to find viscal cancer. But it would be ten

been a fall in deaths and in cas-

Signs of prostate cancer canbe detected by a blood test known as the PSA (prostate specific antigen) test, but this gives no clue as to how fast the cancer is likely to grow. Only one in five men who test positive for PSA will go on to develop life threatening disease and two NHS studies have rejected the introduction of PSA screening in the UK on these grounds.

Professor Cooper, who is to head the first Centre for Urological Sciences in the UK to be Prostate cancer is the fourth built at the Institute, said that using silicon chip technology to identify gene markers for the disease, it should be possible to predict which men had the most aggressive form of the can-

> He said prostate cancer was perceived as a disease of old men and attracted only £1 million of research funding for every £16 million spent on breast cancer. However, one in 20 cases ran in families with strong genetic link and could affect men in their 40s.

The cause of the cancer is not understood but is thought to be linked with diet. The incidence is six times higher in the US than in Japan, but Japanese men who emigrate to the US quickly acquire the American

cer, which could end the need for screening against the disease, is undergoing preliminary tests in humans.

es of advanced disease over the Dr Judy Deacon, an epidemiologist at the institute, said animal studies had shown that vaccination can prevent infection with the human papilioma virus which causes genital years before it was available.



On sticky wicket: Trevor McDonald's sombre tones could be a thing of the past

TREVOR'S ADMIRERS McDonald is subject to many unusual requests. Perhaps the most bizarre one came from a consultant physician who wanted the newscaster to send a message of encouragement to his group of incontinent female patients. The bdies had been asked to think of someone they admired when doing their exercises. This resulted in the

HIS BIGGEST MISTAKE His worst moment on screen was when John McCarthy was released, an event which turned into a farce for the ITN team. McCarthy's plane landed during the commercial break and McDonaki was, in any case, lost for words during the event. But the most embarrassing aspect was that he announced that the RAC, not the RAF, had flown the freed hostage back to Britain.

HIS GREATEST PASSION demeanour, but this quality deserhim when he discusses cricket. After the West Indies were forced by a poor pitch to abandon their January Test with England in Jamaica, this usually moderate ournalist declared that West ndian cricket had been reduced to farce. "For sometime," he said, "it's been surviving solely on memories of a glorious past. Today it is in danger of foundering in a morass of official shortsightedness, indifference and incompetence."

Bong ... will News at Ten move to eleven? Bong ... will viewers protest? And finally ... will Trevor stay?

AND FINALLY ... are the bongs about to toll for Trevor McDonald? The future of Britain's Mr Nice Newscaster looks suddenly uncertain amid fresh reports that News at Ten may be moved way past bedtime, writes Jack O'Sullivan. That once grand institution, it is rumoured, faces demotion to News at Eleven, after the big film and clashing with Newsnight on BBC2.

Those who brew their Horlicks in time for McDonald's closing quip would me um such a move. Not least because Trinidad's most famous son could also prove a casualty. After all, could Trevor any longer resist the lucrative temptations of newsreading for Sky in the face of such humiliation? And would ITN executives want him in any case to keep the late slot? For, over on Channel 5, the fresh-faced, award-winning young pretender Kirsty Young is proving a great crowd-piller. Most miffortant; she has newscast sassy mix of Anna Ford and Selina Scott, de-

IN THE NEWS

TREVOR McDONALD

livering the latest disaster story in unhurried husky tones. Every advertiser has those wellheeled guys as their chief target. And no one doubts which newsreader is best-placed to keep the blokes up late at night. Given ITV's obsession with winning eyeballs for advertisers, radical change is on the agenda.

So, all in all, Trevor's microphone may be on a shaky nail. Nevertheless, at 58, he has had a good innings: on the spot for the fall of the Berlin Wall, he was first to interview Nelson Mandela after his release. And he was famously invited a spell over devoted young males, who love her in for a one-to-one with Saddam Hussein while Kuwait's sand was still fresh between the dic-

tator's toes. Hugely respected for his immaculate presentation and professionalism, he symbolises the charms of a lost past: honesty, integrity, politeness. Benign neutrality and the perfect grammar of his deracinated English are his trade marks. He is to white Middle Britain the acceptable face of black immigration.

Photograph: Brian Harris

So the Bufton Tufton tendency at the Daily Telegraph has no problem accepting a weekly column from him. And a man who once dubbed himself "a West Indian peasant" is at ease advising Blimpish readers on which are the finest poems in the English language. As chair of the Better English Campaign, he has even taken his crusade to a political level. It's a charming style which has served many purposes, not least conferring respectability on the dumbing down of ITN news, which has increasingly shifted to tabloidesque coverage.

McDonald's fascination with the media began in Trinidad, where he was born the son of

an oil refinery worker, who supplemented his small income by raising pigs. His father wanted him to be a doctor, or an engineer, or Gary Sobers. Instead, picking up his familiar sombre tones by listening to the BBC at home, he joined the World Service in 1969, going on to be a reporter, diplomatic correspondent and newscaster for BBC, ITN and Channel 4 News. Already holder of an OBE, he would be an odds-on favourite for a knighthood had the Tories clung to power. John Major - who shares Mc-Donald's passion for cricket - was a great fan and fought previous attempts to alter News at Ten's scheduling. The ex-PM will remember Mc-Donald's sugary interview with him which Labour politicians condemned as "fawning".

The nation loves this man who pays them the compliment of being more British than themselves. But a vestige of a golden age can quickly look like a relic - especially with Kirsty Young looking over his shoulder.



America shows way to win cash from rich donors

By David Lister Arts News Editor

a gene marker."

Donations to the arts will muluiply many times if the Chan-Pellor makes all donations tax deductible in his budget, the secretary of the Royal Academy said last night.

Speaking at a special debate on arts funding mounted by The Independent Save the Arts campaign and the Royal Academy, David Gordon urged that "the arts need to campaign with facts and analysis as well as with passion".

Giving a lead on this, he made a detailed comparison with the American system, where all arts organisations are charities. "Americans have a specific section on their tax return," he said. "Donations to charities are itemised in this section and deducted from the income on which tax is paid. Each dollar given reduces the tax bill. This is called itemisation. Very simple, very effective, ind as a result two thirds of personal giving is itemised ...

"American individuals gave \$120bu or £75bn to charities in 1996. This is equivalent to £280 for every man, woman and





Gordon Brown and Genista McIntosh of the National Theatre flanking the campaign logo

child. Individuals in Britain gave £4.3bn to charities, or about £70 for every man, woman and child . Simplifying giving will lead to much greater giving."

The Royal Academy of Arts and The Independent Forum. on Government Funding of the Arts examined the future of arts funding in Britain, following The Independent and Independent on Sunday campaign urging the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to make all donations to the arts tax deductible in the forthcoming budget.

We are urging Mr Brown to use his budget to introduce a ence to the exhibition Art Trea-

people to make tax-free donations to arts companies and venues. A simple system could be brought in to replace the muddled and cumbersome system of tax relief through covenants and the Gift Aid Scheme.

Last night's panel included Jude Kelly, the artistic director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse: Genista McIntosh, executive director of the National Theatre, David Gordon, secretary of the Royal Academy and Peter Jenkinson of the New Art Gallery, Walsall.

Mr Jenkinson made referchange in taxation law to enable sures of England, the Regional

Collections, on show at the Royal Academy. He said: "We should pause to reflect upon the enormous generosity of former generations who enable us to eniov what we see on the walls today. In the mean-spirited 1990s ... a reminder of such publicspiritedness in such huge pro-

portions is refreshing to witness. Public spiritedness toward the arts today will be hugely encouraged by the incentive that all contributions should be tax deductible. People want to support their favourite galleries and other arts institutions. They should be supported in this wish, not discouraged from doing so."



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Mapplethorpe publishers defy vice squad

By Paul Routledge Crime Correspondent

THE PUBLISHERS of a book by the controversial photographer Robert Mapplethorpe yesterday refused demands by a police vice squad to remove two "offending" pictures or to pulp the publication.

and Pornography Unit is expected to attempt to prosecute Random House pubfor two photographs they consider porno-

If they are successful they will force libraries to cut out the two images or destroy the books.

The University of Central England in Birmingham, where a complaint about the

book was originally made, is also expected to face prosecution.

The two photographs the police want to ban are Helmut and Brooks, NYC, 1978, which shows a man "fisting" - a form of anal sex - another man. And Jim and Tom, Sausalito, 1977, which is of a man clad in The West Midlands police's Paedophile a dog collar, a leather mask and trousers, urinating into another man's mouth.

Gail Rebuck, Chief Executive of Ranshers under the Obscene Publications Act dom House, yesterday attacked the move and said: "We consider this investigation to be wholly misguided, and are assonished that a scholarly work of such acknowledged artistic and literary merit should be at risk

of prosecution. We will be making representation through our lawyers that no action should versity to voluntarily destroy it.

be taken, and still hope that sense will prevail." The statement followed a meeting yesterday at Belgravia police station in London between Dan Franklin, publishing director of Jonathan Cape, which is part of Random House, and detectives from the West Midlands police. The university has already refused to vol-

untarily destroy the book. Mapplethorpe, a copy of which is in the British Library and most university li-

braries, was seized by police last October. Lawyers acting for the Crown Prosecution Service decided parts of it were likely to "deprave or corrupt" under the 1959 Obscene Publications Act and advised the police that they had grounds to ask the uni-

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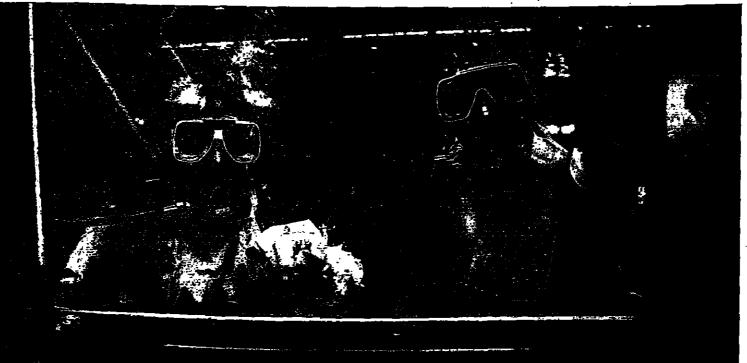
Church loses to zoos and stately homes for weddings

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

THE WAY we get married is altering dramatically, with people increasingly choosing their own venue frather than having a church wedding.

"Approved premises" - those which applied to become wedding venues under new regulations from 1995 - have made significant inroads in the wedding business with a fourfold increase in the space of a year. In one county (Monmouthshire), approved premises now account for one in five of all marriages. And in some counties church weddings dropped by as much as 20 per cent.

The law was changed in 1995, al- and an old ironclad battleship. lowing local authorities to approve 2,000 have been approved, primarily Between 1994-5 and 1996-7 register



some of the more exotic include a zoo 146,000 and church wedding dropped

In the first year, approved premispremises for solemnising civil mar- es claimed 4,000 marriages, but the folriages. Since April that year, more than lowing year there were 15,000.

from 135,000 to 114,000.

Ian Callister of Cheshire County Council, which has the highest number of approved locations, said the reason for the rise was the beautiful hotels and stately homes although office weddings fell from 149,000 to locations - such as Tatton Park (which

provided the interior of the film Brideshead Revisited) and the mock- al factors: "First, people are moving medieval Peckforton Castle. "We performed nearly 1,000 weddings in 1997 - we had to hire nine extra part-time deputy registrars," said Mr Callister.

Wedding Venues Guide, named severaway from the church and looking for alternatives ... churches can also be quite difficult about second-time round matriages, or getting matried outside

Mystery sinking faces new scrutiny

By Kim Senguptz

THE Government has ordered a public inquiry into the sinking of the ship Derbyshire in a typhoon off the coast of Japan 19 years ago after receiving a survey report described as "one of the century's greatest feats of underwater detective work".

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, who is himself a former seaman, announced the decision following a report from an officially financed underwater survey of the wreck of the 169,000 tonnes cargo carrier which capsized with the loss of

Mr Prescott described the £2 million survey, funded by Britain and the EU, as not only one of the greatest pieces of underwater detective work this century, but even more impressive than the research done on the Titanic.

The survey report authors said structural faults did not cause the loss of the ship in September 1980. The report said that an unsecured hatch had led to the flooding of the bow area of the ship, lowering it into the waves. The force of the water ripped off the hatch covers, filled the cargo holds, and caused the ship to sink rapidly.

Robin Williams, the chief scientist on the expedition, said the Derbyshire was caught in typhoon Orphid and buffeted by 80ft waves. Successive hatch covers down the ship either exploded or imploded with the force of 17 tonnes of TNT

The time from the hatch covers being ripped off to the stern sinking was just two minutes, or in part, the questions it and the sheer speed of the impending disaster meant a may-

this case don't know what's happening and that's good for the families of the victims in a way. It will give them some sort of solace".

The surveyors had found "a picture of total destruction with parts of this huge ship ripped apart lying torn and crumpled on the sea bed". More than 135,000 photographs were taken, and 2,000 pieces of wreckage examined. There was, according to the assessors, no one single reason for the sinking of the Derbyshire, but a combination of factors,

Relatives of the 42 crew members and two wives who died, as well as shipping unions and shipping experts, had long maintained that the Derbyshire and other bulk carriers were structurally unsound.

Asked his views on this, Mr Williams responded: "This is not a clean bill of health for the industry. We have ignored the signs and are still ignoring signs. Ships are being lost. There are no winners in this, there is a lesson for everybody in this sink-

The report made a number of recommendations including a review of the regulations regarding how low in the water ships should sit, the possible strengthening of cargo hatch covers and the positioning of all ventilators, air pipes and access hatches.

The Deputy Prime Minister invited interested parties to submit representations on whether the formal investigation should be re-opened in whole should address, and whether it should be at the High Court or day call was not put out, Mr "before a Wreck Commissioner. 🍎

Medical chief denies MMR ccine link to autism

SIR KENNETH CALMAN, the Government's chief medical officer, moved to allay public alarm over the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine yesterday after hundreds of parents had requested the vaccinations separately.

Sir Kenneth said there was no scientific evidence that giving separate doses was any safer than the combined vaccine and could increase the risks to children.

Sir Kenneth was responding to a paper in The Lancet medical journal last month suggesting there may be a link between MMR vaccination and inflammatory bowel disease and antism in some children. He said: "Independent experts and I have seen the published research and we are not convinced that there is indeed any link. No evidence has been published that demonstrates that MMR plays a part in autism."

Letters were sent to all GPs yesterday confirming that the

£1 m for parenting skills

PARENTS who need help to prevent family breakdown are to be given new skills and support with the aid of a f.lm Gov-ernment grant, the health minister Paul Boateng said yesterday. He was speaking at the Families and Early Intervention con-

ference in London which warned that there was no "magic bullet" solution to anti-social behaviour amongst young people. However early support for families can prevent breakdown and is not only beneficial to families and gives children a good start in life but it also saves money in the long term.

Research in Britain and America has shown that early intervention works. Projects include the Waterville Projects for Children and Young People, North Tyneside and Minsthorpe Community College, West Yorkshire.

Hunt for missing woman

A POLICE computer operator has become the subject of an intensive land and air search by the Humberside Police.

Kirsty Carver, 22, employed by the police for four years, went missing a week ago, leaving officers completely baffled. "This is completely out of character with Kirsty," said Lisa Hobson, a police press officer. "She was a very pretty girl, with a lot of friends and had a very loving family." Kirsty Carver is 5'2" with long brown hair, and was last seen wearing a black coat, blue jeans and black shoes. The car was found abandoned in a quiet country lane at Willerby, near Hull.

Former Taoiseach to retire

ALBERT REYNOLDS, the former Taoiseach whose diplomacy forged the 1993 Downing Street Joint Declaration by Dublin and London which paved the way for the August 1994 IRA ceasefire, announced he is to retire from politics at the

Mr Reynolds, 65, said he had "made his contribution" to politics Ireland and was now concentrating on his business interests abroad. His family owns a successful pet foods

Literary snub US to writers

Judges of the world's richest literary prize yesterday all but excluded US writers from the shortlist. Ten novels will compete in May for the £100,000 IMPAC Dublin literary award for any fiction published in English (including translations), but the only US novel is Jamaica Kincaid's Autobiography of my Mother. Contenders familiar to British readers include Graham Swift's Last Orders and Margaret Atwood's Alias Grace.

Before you go shopping this weekend, check out the Q's.

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Certainly is Q. Does it
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chief denies MMR

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smill US to which

Fayed shrugs off new claims over driver



Cow computer

A FRIEND at the Ministry of Agriculture has brought Pandora word of a new hi-tech departmental office being established in Workington, Cumbria. This office will house a powerful computer whose tasks will include keeping track of every single cow in Britain.

That may sound mildly amusing, but the background to this story is more serious. When the computer complex was first proposed, under the previous goveroment, there was talk of locating it in either Huntington (John Major's constituency) or in Guildford, another Tory heartland. Studies done at the Dept of Ag showed that locating it in the North might actually prove more expensive. But the new government's decision to locate the Cow Computer in the North reflects a "nothing new south of the M4 policy", in the words of one Whitehall source.

Oh, by the way, Workington is not a million miles from Jack Cunningham's Copeland constituency.

Sinn Fein tag

WHEN Gerry Adams left Downing Street yesterday, he drove away in a Toyota people carrier, closely followed by a Range Rover. Tagging along behind them came a rather scruffy blue Metro with a dent in the back. It was driven by Cherie Blair, blissfully unaware that for a few moments she had joined the Sinn Fein motorcade.

Soho country

SOHO HOUSE, the London cinema "player's" answer to the Groucho Club, is joining the countryside movement. The club has acquired an 18th-century manor, Bavington House, for The plan is to open a 30-bedroom retreat with screening room, editing suite and health spa on August 1st. Soho House has 2000 members and from what Pandora has seen of them at 2.30am in the club's raucous smoke-filled bar, they could benefit from a bit of fresh air.

Other activities planned for Soho-in-Somerset include riding. cricket and croquet. One mem-ber wonders if they'll have outdoor lighting to accommodate the club's many night-owls who might fancy a post-midnight round of competitive mallets. Hopefully, someone will explain to the club's more restless bar regulars that "looking for a fox" has a rather different meaning in the West Country than it does on Greek Street

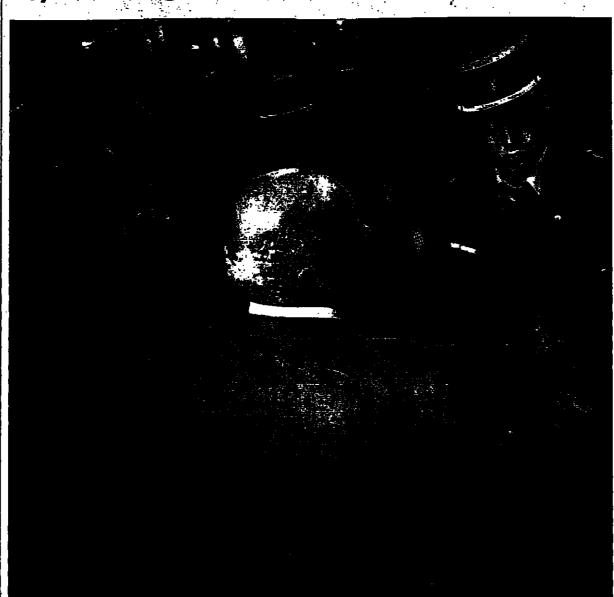
Oh, Barbie!



FHM, the fantastically successful UK men's magazine whose circulation has soared far above 600,000, is being sued by Mattel Inc, the manufacturers of Barbie and Ken dolls, in a Los Angeles court. Their complaint photographs of the dolls in sexually explicit, "improper" positions were published in the magazine and have damaged the plastic couple's "wholesome" image.

Pandora rang the mag's editor, but his assistant said, "He doesn't wish to comment." Would James Brown, editor of GQ and founding editor of Loaded, ever say that? Come to think of it, after glancing through FHM it appears that one of its editorial secrets for success is exactly this: don't say much but look at those dolls!

Pandora



THE Harrods boss Moharned Al Fayed raises his

protection of gendarmes. Mr. Fayed had met Judge Herve Stephan who is investigating the death of Diana. Princess of Wales and Mr Faved' son, Dodi, and who is said to have been furious about his well-publicised

hands as he leaves a French

court yesterday under the

conspiracy theory claims. The meeting at the Palais de Justice came as it emerged that the Ritz hotel tried to stop staff talking to police about Henri Paul's

drinking "for the benefit of the Royal Family".

A report in L'Express magazine claimed that a barman at L'Espadon, where Mr Paul and Trevor Rees-Jones. the sole survivor, had been waiting for the couple on the night of the crash, said he saw the driver staggering and brush against another barman as he left.

The next day, the barman claimed a senior executive at the Ritz, owned by Mr Fayed, told him to tell police that Mr Paul had drunk only fruit

Poets war of words leaves blood on the studio carpet

By David Lister Arts News Editor

IT IS NOT often that Radio 4's Today programme features a discussion on poetry. After yesterday's diversion into literary criticism it might employ extra security men before doing so again. "Give me politics any day." said shell-shocked interviewer Alex Brodie at the end of the

literary debate. In the studio was Michael Horovitz, the godfather of performance poetry, creator of the Royal Albert Hall poetry Olympics. He was invited to comment on new-wave performance poet Murray Lachlan Young. The Byronicmaned rock'n'roll poet won a reputed film deal from EMI and has just written a poem for a Virgin Atlantic advertising

campaign. Fortunately, Lachlan Young was not in the studio, or there might have been blood on the Broadcasting House carpets. The unfortunate Chris Meade, director of the Poetry Society, was there, but you would hardly have known it as Horovitz, despite entreaties, barely let him get a word in and refused to be silenced, yelling that Lachlan Young will be forgotten in eight minutes" as Mr Brodie tried to move on to the next

The nub of Horovitz's literary argument went as follows: "If he [Lachlan Young] is a poet at all, he's not a very good poet ... a poet aged 28 is lauded to the skies, but at load of garbage ... He's gig there.

that doesn't make him write like Byron ... and forget about the £1m ... he hasn't made more than £30,000." Lachlan Young's spokeswoman said yesterday that he

dressed up to look like Byron,

had made considerably more than £30,000.

But, the literary debate

did not end there. For Lach-

lan Young happened to be listening to the radio at home. A few hours later he summoned up his powers of imagery and lyricism to hit back "Yes," he sighed, "I'm sitting at home sticking a photograph of myself on a punchbag to send to Michael Horovitz. I expect his unnatural obsession with me is more of a sexual thing. But I draw the line at sending a rub-

Lachlan Young's verse for Virgin seems unexceptionable, if a little repetitive in style and rhyming scheme. He rhapsodises over the in-flight entertainment system as "Destination Stimulation". He rhapsodises over the business-class seats as being available for an "extra donation". And he rhapsodises yet again over business class as "Destination Relaxation". The Horovitz revenge is

coming. He says he is working on a poem called A New Wasteland denouncing the commercialism that has sprouted phenomena like Lachlan Young. But for now the last word belongs to Lachlan Young. He revealed last night that Horovitz's son Adam, who runs a poetry chib in Stroud, Gloucesterthe age of 28 he has written a shire, has invited him to do a

Extract from A New Wasteland

The rock of artistic aspirations today -Publishing, Broadcasting, Prizegiving, So-called critical standardising Seems immalleably fixed, defined, Motivated and controlled by a Transatlantic Dunciad of accountants Profiteers, expert packagers ...

£300,000 slap on wrist for ICI after toxic leak

By Nicholas School **Environment Correspondent**

BRITAIN'S biggest chemical company received its largestever fine in the UK vesterday, after 150 tonnes of toxic chloroform gushed out of a pipe and polluted groundwater for decades, and perhaps for cen-

The Government's Environment Agency was delighted with the £300,000 fine against ICI, saying it sent a clear signal to boardrooms that pollution did not pay. But even though it is Britain's second biggest fine for any pollution crime, it is less than one tenth of one per cent of the group's pre-tax worldwide profits.

The leak was only discovered when a contractor spotted a three-foot high fountain of chloroform gushing from a broken filter in a pipe at ICI Chemicals and Polymers sprawling site at Runcorn, Cheshire. The escape, which happened in broad daylight, went undiscovered for fourand-a-half hours in April last

which caused serious environmental damage," said the environment agency's chief executive, Ed Gallagher.

"I hope the scale of today's fine is an indication that the courts are beginning to understand the impact of what industry does when it pollutes the

Warrington Crown Court was told that as well as polluting the Weston Canal and nearby River Weaver, 123 tonnes of the chloroform sank into the

There is a chance that several decades from now it could pollute a drinking water borehole four miles away at Frod-

The maximum concentration allowed in drinking water is 100 parts per billion.

The chloroform, made for use in refrigerators, can cause unconsciousness and prolonged exposure causes kidney and liver damage. There were no reports of people living or working nearby suffering any ill

ICI pleaded guilty to causing pollution and not keeping its equipment in good operat-

ing condition, and was ordered to pay £51,200 compensation and costs. Judge David Hale said adequate risk assessments had not been carried out and there had not been proper monitoring of chloroform flow

in the pipeline which would

have alerted ICI to the problem. A company spokesman said: "We're sorry it happened and we're taking all steps to make sure nothing like this happens again. We thought the fine would be a big one."

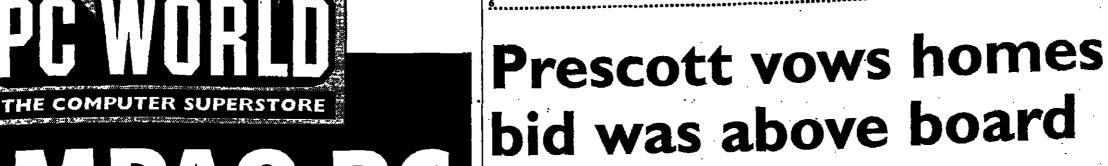
ICI hopes the court case will end a sorry chapter of pollution bungles which damaged its reputation last year.

Escapes of hazardous gases and liquids at several plants led to prosecutions. A 'hit squad' of six Environment Agency pollution inspectors was sent into its Runcorn plant to carry out an emergency audit of company procedures last May following three serious incidents. including the chloroform es-

The largest pollution fine in Britain was £1 million, imposed on Shell UK after a massive oil pipeline leak seriously polluted the Mersey Estuary in 1989.

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JOHN PRESCOTT'S son spoke for the first time yester- for which Mr Prescott junior day of the "nightmare" week he works, for an average price of Prescott's employer, and a felhas spent since being accused of £5,300 each. involvement in a controversial

gation into the deal today, Johnathan Prescott junior told board. The Independent: "The whole audit will prove it."

Mr Prescott, 34, broke his silence as one of the two selfstyled "researchers" who have been touting information about his father denied being involved in a political dirty tricks cam-

paign.
The Deputy Prime Minister ordered senior officials from the Department of the Environment to examine the sale of 25 going on," he said. "I won't go

Developments Ltd, a company a lot to say afterwards."

As auditors prepared to Prescott junior said: "The deal hand over results of an investi- was completely fair and completely normal. It was all above

thing was above board and the absolute nightmare; but I am sure the audit will show what really happened." Mr Prescott referred to the a modest return.

actions of Ian Newton, 42, one of the "researchers" who was arbail in connection with a burwhich some papers were stolen.

"People are beginning to

houses from the North Hull into details until after the au-Housing Action Trust to Wyke ditor's report but I might have

Simon Cutting, low director of Wyke Property given up on us yet." Some have argued that the Services Ltd, a holding compaprice was too low, but Mr ny which will control the houses, said he had been given the option of selling on the houses immediately to first-time buyers - possibly at a profit - or of "The past week has been an committing them for rental at up to £50 a week for 10 years. He chose the latter, a move which will eventually result in

"This is only happening because John is working for me rested and released on police and someone is out to get his father," he said. "Last summer, glary at a city centre office in before we even got involved in this deal, someone was ringing estate agents and asking if they see what sort of stuff has been could get the same kind of 'special rate' they gave to Simon

Cutting and John Prescott. They were trying to suggest that we were in cahoots with the .. Mr building society to organise repossessions. And they haven't

> The second researcher, Matthew Parkes, 31, who sought sanctuary from the media at a Hull police station on Tuesday night with Mr Newton. denied that disaffected Labour councillors had hired him to dig dirt on Mr Prescott senior.

He told the Yorkshire Post that he and Mr Newton had received only £5 for photocopying and that money was not his motive.

"From my point of view we wanted to see whether there was anything in the sleaze allegations discussed on shopfloors in Hull," he said. "I certainly think there's enough here to warrant



Small stage: John Prescott in rehearsal for a local drama production at Hull City Hall

Self-contained city where feuds fester and grudges take grip

Hull provides a unique environment for political intrigue, says Andrew Buncombe

Trains stop at Hull. It is, in more

1897, without a cathedral, but it is essentially a large village. Everybody seems to know everybody else, everyone seems to be a distant relative of everyone and a person's business is rarely private. It is easy to see how in this insular environment, grudges and fends grow and smoulder. The local political scene is a case in point.

While the 60-member Hull City Council may be made up of 58 Labour councillors there is - in the best traditions of the Labour Party - plenty of scope for infighting. As the Hull Daily Mail, said yesterday: "What this week's episode has underlined is the continuing unhealthy state of politics in Hull."

Indeed if ever there was a place where a prominent politician such as John Prescott might be the victim of a smear campaign launched by rivals, Hull would be the ideal envi-

Controversy surrounding the former seaman dates back to the early 70s when he was first became an MP, and there is no the evidence suggests that the charm,

HULL achieved city status in Deputy Prime Minister may be suffering more from paranoia confident because it has to be. than plotters.

Councillors have been getting the odd threatening late night phone call, the odd offensive package, but no more than in any other large city. In all likelihood, the people said to have launched a political "vendetta" against Mr Prescott, are no more than two men who have tried to sell some very

People may tell you that in this age of digital technology, everywhere is only a second away, but they miss the point. They missed the point too when they predicted that the

It is self-sufficient and self-

building of the Humber Bridge -opened by the Queen in 1981 ~ would make Hull one of the most important crossroads of Britain. It didn't. Many people,

mean to come to Hull - the

Netherlands by ferry is the only

other option - or you have been

lured there by people claiming

they have a story to sell.

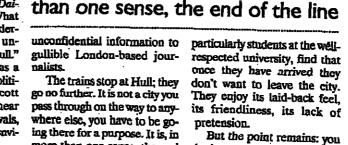
afternoon in a city where it always seems to be raining.

It was raining yesterday in Hull. A depressing drizzle blew down Ferensway, one of the main roads in the city centre, and past the Royal Hotel, restored after it was destroyed by arson several years ago.

It was drizzling too at the refurbished marina, full of new, shiny yachts that - since the collapse of the city's fishing industry in the late 70s - are the only boats you'll find. Even the Earl de Grey pub, famously patronised by the city's transvestites and always a safe bet for an afternoon pint whatever your persuasion, was shuttered up against the weather.

Hessie Road, famous as the home of the former trawler families, looked bleak under a cement-grey sky, with men and its friendliness, its lack of women bent double against the weather.

Even in the narrow cobbled don't come to Hull unless you street outside Wilberforce House - home of William Wilberforce, the man who did so much to end slavery in the British Empire - it was soggy underfoot. Water, like gossip, They probably only did it to rumour, and indeed paranoia, try and brighten a damp winter gets everywhere.



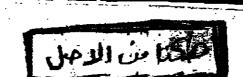
ing there for a purpose. It is, in more than one sense, the end of the line.

That is not to criticise this compact city of 300,000 people. Its remoteness, both geodoubt that he has ruffled plen- graphically and to a lesser extwof feathers over the years. But tent culturally, is part of its

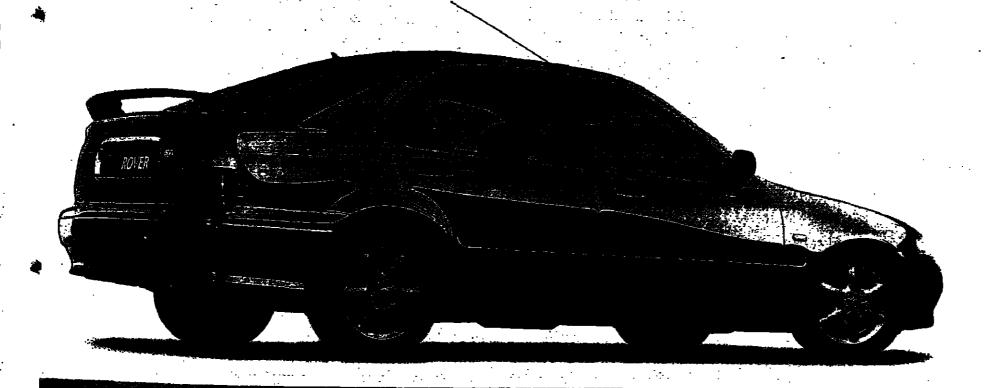
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Ex-servicemen may get credits to study

Chief Political Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT is considering copying President Bill Clinton's GI bill to give former-servicemen credits to cash in for studies which could help them get jobs in Civvy Street under fundamental reforms to the armed forces outlined yesterday by the Secretary of State for Defence.

George Robertson. Mr Robertson signalled a shift in Ministry of Defence thinking towards doing more to help men and women to secure careers after serving with the armed forces, both to help recruitment and cut down unemployment

"This is one of the 'people' issues that we are focusing on in the review. The 'people' element is going to be than bombs. a strong part of the review when it MoD said.

The United States GI bill, which with great interest" was passed to give

forces personnel points which could when they left service. It is believed it will help keep people in the services longer to earn more points.

Mr Robertson said that around 20,000 joined the forces each year, most staying for 12 years or less. About 30,000 left the armed forces last year, and the introduction of a GI-style scheme would fit into Tony Blair's agenda for a "new deal" to get people back to work.

Mr Robertson's speech at Chatham House was described as a services. "Rumours about the demise "milestone" in the strategic defence review, which he made it clear was not a peace-time cost-cutting exercise to meet demands for more money to be spent on hospital beds

He disclosed that the MoD was is announced," a spokesman for the studying plans for ordering a new eneration of bigger aircraft carriers, similar to those deployed by the US Mr Robertson said he was "studying in the Gulf. He admitted they would still be a need for them in the future, be more expensive than the current he stressed.

generation of Invincible-class carribe cashed for training or education, ers for short-take-off Harrier jump jets, and it could dismay both the Treasury and Labour supporters who were looking for big savings in

defence spending. The Secretary of State for defence gave a clear hint that there would be more mergers of back-up forces for deploying helicopters, ground-to-air defence missiles and units to deal with nuclear, biological and chemical attack. But he said he would not be abolishing or merging any of the three armed of the RAF and the merger of the Royal Marines and the Parachute Regiment can be given a decent burial."

The ending of the Cold War has forced the MoD to review the need for troops to be based in Germany, but Mr Robertson hinted it would continue to underpin Britain's commitment to Nato in Europe. Tank numbers may be cut, but there would

Anti-hunting lobby goes down fighting



Joint action: Sheila Burkitt, 66, with Fred the Fox at yesterday's anti-hunt protest opposite Downing Street Photograph: Andrew Buuman

By Nick Schoon Environment Correspondent

THE ANTI-hunting Bill is likely to be killed off today and its death will leave the wealthy, vocal anti-blood-sport groups at a loss over what to do next.

Yesterday, Labour MP Michael Foster was still refusing £1m to Labour before the gento give up hope, manoeuvring with a fresh amendment to avoid his Private Member's Bill being filibustered to death by a few senior Conservative MPs. "If we're in terms of getting much higher going to go down, we're going to go down fighting," he said.

The antis have won their greatest ever support from MPs, with 411 votes in favour at last November's second reading, ministers the impression that They have demonstrated while its side may be in the mithrough several opinion polls nority, passion and determination that three-quarters of Britons oppose hunting with hounds, and that even most country ple should be free to pursue their dwellers are against it. Prime Minister Tony Blair has repeatedly said he opposes the sport.

Yet, despite having spent film on advertising alone over the of Cruelty to Animals and the past few months, they are no League Against Cruel Sports, any nearer a huming ban. All that has not considering organising mass been demonstrated is that a Private Member's Bill can never get the pro-hunting movement. such legislation enacted unless the Government gives it parliamentary time and support.

The painful reality now fac- make hunting with hounds less ing the three animal rights cruel to deer, foxes and hares. groups which comprise the Campaign Against Hunting is the Government, under pressure that the Labour government, with a huge majority, was and still is their best hope. There is no no chance of applying political pressure to the Government by getting the Tories or Liberal Democrats to join their cause.

Indeed, one of the three, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, (IFAW) said this week that it would have to consider standing anti-hunting candidates in marginal constituencies

at the next general election. IFAW's sister organisation, the Political Animal Lobby, gave eral election, largely in the hope of a ban. Yet Mr Blair and his cabinet have decided that ending it would be too risky - both priority legislation bogged down in parliament and of raising the wrath of the rural establishment

The pro-hunting lobby, the Countryside Alliance, has given more than makes up for this. The libertarian argument - that peosport even if it offends the majority - has also won ground.

IFAW and its partners, the Royal Society for the Prevention "League Against Cruel Sports, ank. rallies, like the two organised by

They say it would prove little. Nor do they accept any com-

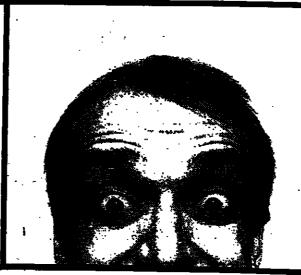
The antis' best hope is that from MPs and the voters, will relent and give useful backing to a fresh Bill in a year or two. Meanwhile, they warn that the Bill's failure - which they claim as a failure of democracy - may lead to upsurge in hunt sabotage.



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French back move to lift EU beef ban

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

JACK Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, has reached a deal with the French which ministers believe will give them the breakthrough Britain has been fighting for two years to achieve with the lifting of the European export ban on British

The Government is confident that it can win a vote to start lifting the export ban on beef from Northern Ireland, which is covered by a traceability scheme, at a two-day meeting next week of European agriculture ministers in Brussels following a round of jet diplomacy by Mr Cunningham. Officials said yesterday it could mean that Ulster beef could go on sale for export "within a few weeks".

Tony Blair regards the victory as so important for his government that the agenda is being arranged by the British presidency of the European Union to make sure the breakthrough can be announced on Monday to avoid it being overshadowed by the Budget 24 hours later.

The French abstained when the European veterinary committee voted by 10 to 4 to rec- in September. ommend the lifting of the ban, but Mr Cunningham secured the support of the French to back Britain at a meeting in Paris with the French agriculture minister, Louie Le Pensec.

The Germans are still hold-

ing out, with Spain, Luxemburg and Belgium, but Mr Cun-ningham is said to have told the Spanish agriculture minister at a meeting this week that he had enough votes lined up to secure

A ministerial source said: "Jack has done a deal with the French, and he has got it in the bag now. There is always the chance of a slip, but it looks like we will win

"It will show that a pro-European Labour government can do what a Euro-septic Tory government failed to achieve.

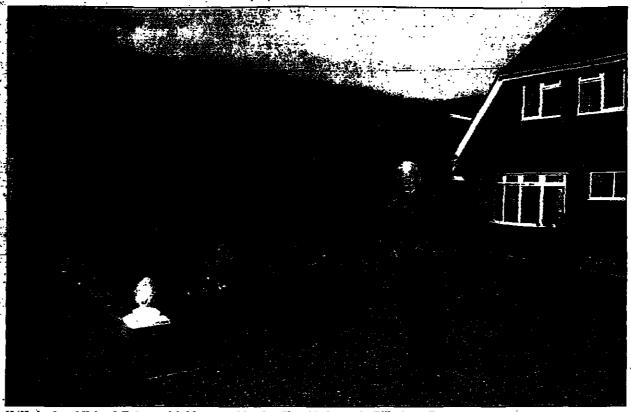
The Ulster traceability scheme was introduced to stop fraudulent cross-border trading in cattle. It has enabled the authorities to tag and trace every cow and calf in Northern Ireland, and to provide proof that BSE is not present in the herd.

Ministers are pressing ahead with a certified herd scheme for the rest of Britain to put all cattle on a computer base as big as the car registry at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.
Next Tuesday Jeff Rooker.

the minister of state for agriculture, will visit the computer system in Workington, Cumbria, which will trace millions of cattle, when it is fully operational

A Whitehall source said: "You can never guarantee these things, especially where Europe is concerned, but it is pretty unlikely the ministers will overturn the recommendations of the vets."

Growing a hedge too far should be a crime, say MPs



Knife hedge: Michael Geiger with his carved Leylandii at his home in Billericay, Essex

Political Editor

A POSSIBLE crime of hedgegrowing was backed by more than 60 MPs from all sides of the Commons yesterday.

Welcoming the recent suggestion from Richard Caborn, the Planning Minister, that Leylandii hedges might be required to have planning permission, the motion suggested even more extreme measures to deal with "this increasing menace" - criminal sanctions.

Sponsored by Lynne Jones, Labour MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, the motion said that while "a key element in many of the most distressing disputes over high hedges is unsocial behaviour and harassment", the existing Crime and Disorder Bill might provide a means of tackling the problem.

However it was dealt with, the MPs wanted "effective measures to tackle the vindictive impulses of those who insist on allowing their hedges to reach monstrous heights, with

the main purposes of inflicting misery on their neighbours." One of Dr Jones's constituents is Michael Jones,

who spent 18 years and £100,000 in legal fees on a dispute with a neighbour over a 26-foot Leylandii hedge. Mr Jones, who was allowed

to prune back the offending bedge to a height of 12ft, has since set up a support group, called Hedgeline.

Dr Jones has won the backing for her motion from signatories stretching from Ken Livingstone on the Labour Left through to David Amess on the Thatcherite Right of the Conservative Party.

Dr Jones told The Independent that she did not want to stop people growing Leylandii bedges, or any other kind of large hedge. "It's only when it forms some kind of anti-social or oppressive behaviour," she added, "then, the fact that there is some kind of sanction might help to ease matters, and in most cases help to solve the

Ministers warned over union rights

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

THE LEADER of one of the Labour Party's biggest affiliates yesterday registered his suspicion that the Government was preparing to water down manifesto commitments on em-

ployee rights. John Edmonds, president of the TUC and general secretary of the GMB general union, warned ministers that the movement was capable of mounting more than twice the size of the side march and was prepared to

do so to make its point. women's conference in Scarborough, he said unions failed 10 appreciate the extent to which they would need their lobbying skills after Labour's elec-

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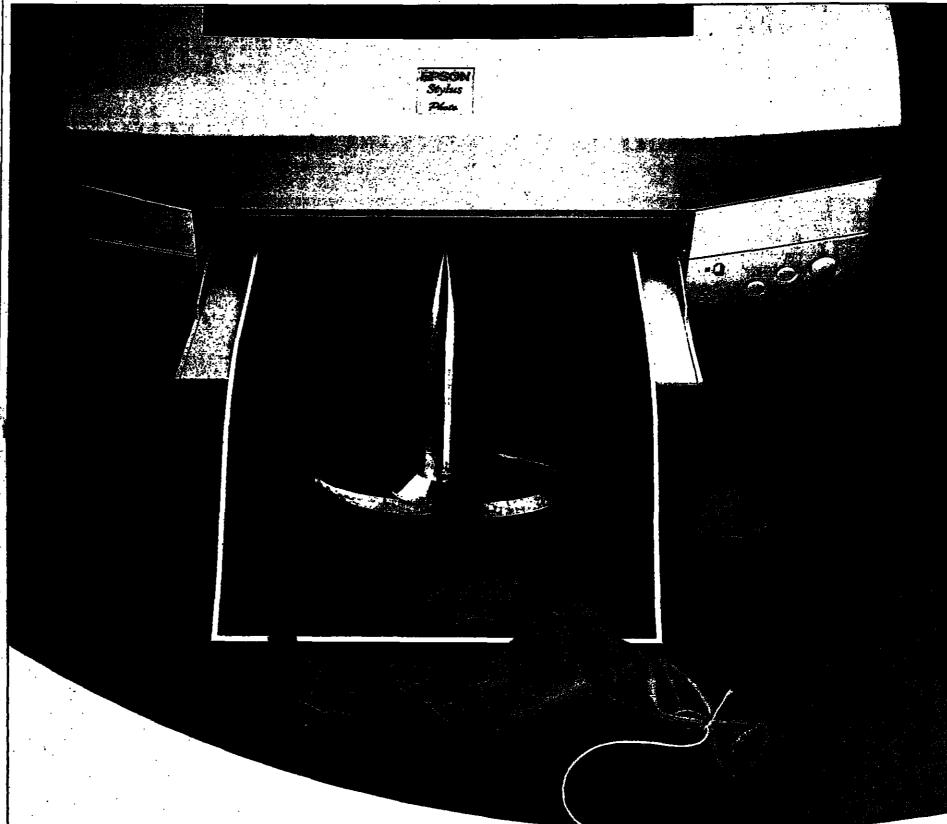
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ministers to honour the "substance and the spirit" of a manifesto pledge to introduce union recognition laws.

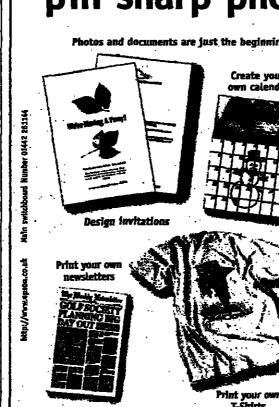
The CBI believes it has the ear of ministers on the issue and that considerable hurdles will be placed in the way of unions winning negotiating rights at rehictant companies.

The proposed legislation is to be a key element of the Fairness at Work White Paper to be published in May. In an interview with Radio

demonstrations in London 4's Today programme Mr Edmonds said: "This is very imrecent 100,000-strong country- portant for us. It's a clear manifesto commitment that everybody understood. I think Addressing the TUC's the Labour government will understand that if it didn't deliver that there would be some very difficult consequences within the party." Unions still command half the votes at poltion victory, and he urged icy-making conferences.



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Schools to get marks on whether they improve

By Ben Russell Education Correspondent

SCHOOLS are to be graded on how well they improve children's exam performance, the Government announced today.

Ministers want new league tables to push children currently getting C grades in their GCSPs up to Bs and As.

League tables to be published in November will give every school a mark from A to E to show how well it improved exam scores.

The tables will also include a new A-level-style points score for pupils, designed to reflect the marks children actually get, rather than just the number who get five or more grade Cs as at present.

Announcing the change, Education Minister Estelle Morris said parents would be offered more information than ever before about how their children's schools were performing. She said: "A school which

may have been complacent be-

cause of the number of children

than getting C grades will now have chilto push those children to get A ning. and B grades to do well.

des will now have rently getting D and E grades, if they are going to get a good points score overall."

"Schools will also have to concentrate on improving the performance of children curget five or more GCSEs at

grade C or above, leading to claims that schools can concentrate on getting more children to achieve five C grades, rather than raising standards

The new system, proposed in a consultation document published yesterday, will retain all the existing information about exam marks and truancy.

But they will also give points

for each grade at GCSE, ranging from one point for a G to leight points for an A*. Tables will include an average number of points per pupil.

s A progress index is to be in-

troduced which will compare schools' GCSE results with their scores in national tests for 14 year olds and give an idea how well pupils progress.

Ms Morris said: 'That's what

we are looking for; no excuses, but solid, measurable improvement between these two stages.

"A points score will reward the hard work schools do with all pupils, so they will be under pressure to raise the achievement of all pupils," Ms Morris

Initially, the index will grade assist m schools from A to E on whether their GCSE results are above or below the average for schools achieving similar scores in the Key Stage Three test for 14 year assist m justice."

But I eral sect teaching warned:

Ministers want to introduce even more sophisticated socalled value-added measures which track individual pupils as early as next year. A pilot will be faunched in 200 schools this

Potential learning: New league tables aim to make

schools push pupils currently achieving C

into the As and Bs

grades in their GCSE's

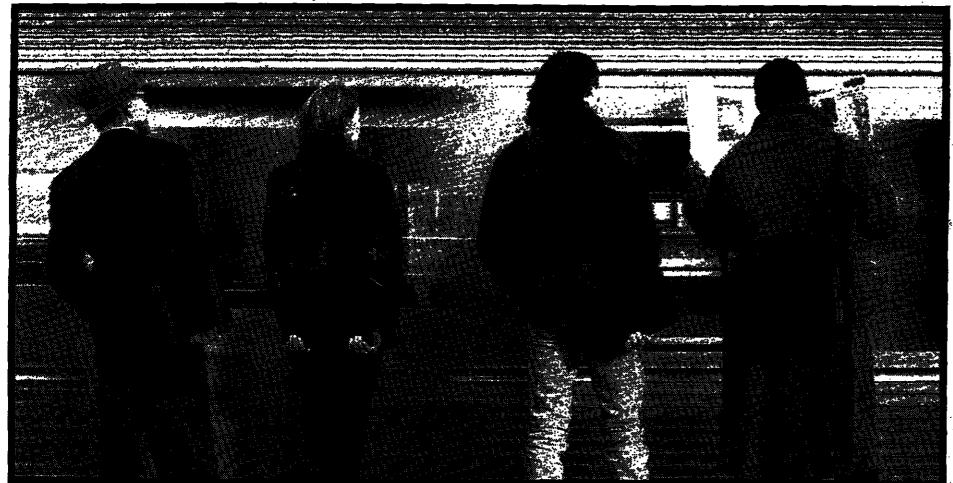
The changes also include new A-level points scores, bringing in vocational GNVQs, and a separate table for children with special needs.

Doug McAwy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "These changes are a move in the right direction, though they still fail to take account of the many factors external to a school which will impact on achievement."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "It is critical that the performance of secondary schools is judged across the entire ability range, otherwise the least able pupils, who the Government wishes to assist most, suffer a grave injustice."

But Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of second largest teaching union, the NASUWT, warned: "The whole bureaucracy involved in the business fills me with horror. On no account must classroom teachers be drawn into the business."

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More information for parents

The new school league tables include several extra measures designed to give more information to parents.

Main points include:

An A-level-style point score for GCSE exams, ranging from eight points for an A* grade to one point to a G. Schools will be measured on the average number of GCSE points gained by each pupil. Vocational GNVQs will also be included in the points

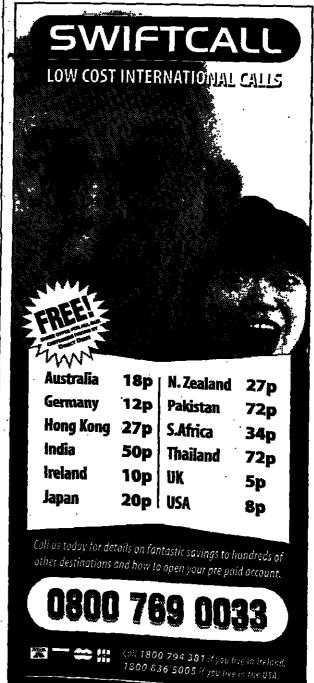
A School Progress Measure, giving each school a mark from
A to E. The grades will show how well schools performed at
GCSE compared with their results in national tests for H-year-

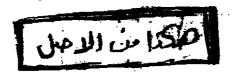
The new table will show parents whether the GCSE results are better or worse than the average for schools getting the same results in the national curriculum tests.

 Points scores for A-level standard advanced GNVQs, and a new points measure including both A-levels and GNVQs.
 A measure showing the number of pupils with special needs getting Certificates of Achievement, a qualification designed for

those who cannot cope with GCSEs.

All the current measures, including the number of pupils getting five or more good GCSEs, truancy rates, and conventional A-level point scores, will remain.





bod)

nprove Doctors in turmoil over body searches

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

DOCTORS who are refusing to carry out intimate body searches on criminal suspects without their consent are to meet ministers to discuss their concerns.

Although Home Office guidance says doctors can carry out the searches with impunity, the medical profession has taken a different line.

Doctors believe that if they carry out the searches for drugs or weapons without consent they could be found guilty of serious professional misconduct or even convicted of indecent as-

Guidance to members of the British Medical Association suggests that not only should they refuse to carry out searches without consent, but that a detainee's consent may be suspect because a refusal can be seen as incriminating.

"Doctors who feel in conscience bound to participate in such procedures should take note that they are personally responsible for the decisions they take," the BMA warns.

Last night a BMA spokeswoman said doctors who were asked to carry out searches were often forced into "interesting conversations with suspects. They had to say they would not touch the detainee without consent while at the same time suggesting a search by a police officer would be order. much less pleasant, she said.

"In most cases for the patient it would be better for it to be done by a qualified medical

practitioner. But the ethics of it are quite clear - to conduct a search without consent is assault," she said.

Searches for drugs must be carried out in a hospital or surgery, while searches for weapons can take place in a police station. Drugs searches in particular are delicate operations because if heroin is swallowed in a condom which then splits there is a risk that the suspect may die of an overdose.

Dr Michael Knight, Honorary Secretary of the Association of Police Surgeons, said that although 132 intimate searches were carried out in 1996, the last year for which figures were available, far more would have been done if consent had not been an issue.

He suggested that one solution might be taking urine samples without consent - a procedure which would not require the presence of a doctor. However, the situation had reached "a classic impasse." "I don't see any way forward.

This isn't a theoretical business. it's a real business and I think any doctor or nurse who went against these guidelines would be running a grave risk," he said.

The BMA's guidelines to doctors say that searches should preferably be carried out by a. police surgeon. If one is not available another doctor, a registered midwife or a registered nurse should be sought in that

Authorisation must be made by an officer of at least the rank of superintendent, and should normally be made in writing.



Actress's novel appearance

OSCAR nominee Helena Bonham Carter, decked out in a Victorian period costume, poses for the photographer Annie Leibovitz at the Freud Museum in Hampstead, north London.

The 31-year-old actress who has starred in 17 films, including Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, has won an Oscar nomination for her latest film role, as Kate Croy in lain Softley's adaptation of Henry James's novel The Wings of the Dove.

Leibovitz carches the quintessential Englishness of Ms Bonham Carter in this photograph - The Victorian - which appears with a host of others taken by the celebrity photographer and featuring in April's "Hollywood 1998" edition of the magazine Vanity Fair.



Cricket chief 'appalled' by sexism claims

was "saddened and appalled" by nancy.

her allegations. nied Lord's had paid for Theresa Harrild to have an abortion.

upper echelons of English crick-

receptionist who branded him had been dismissed after being a sexist and a bully, saying he forced to terminate her preg-

Ir Lamb said: "We are Tim Lamb, chief executive of pretty appalled by what are the English Cricket Board, de-some pretty hartful allegations." The former Middlesex crick-

eter demed all allegations made Miss Harrild, 32, rocked the by Miss Harrild during the case, including a claim that he

ENGLAND'S cricket chief to- et yesterday when she won an had referred to women crickday hit back at a former Lord's industrial tribunal claiming she eters as "dykes and lesbians". He stressed that he was personally working hard to pro-

mote women in cricket. Speaking at Lord's, he declined to reveal why Miss Harrild had lost her job, but he said: "I would completely deay what

"My personal attitude towards her situation was one of

sympathy and understanding.
"We thought we acted in an entirely appropriate manner

and in good faith. There was absolutely no pressure put on Miss Harrild by senior management here to terminate the

This robust response was undermined yesterday, however, when a second woman employee at Lord's alleged sex dis-

haviour by senior male staff and being sent pornographic e-mail. Marketing secretary Sarah Bladon told London's Evening Standard: "I think I was expected to find it amusing, but

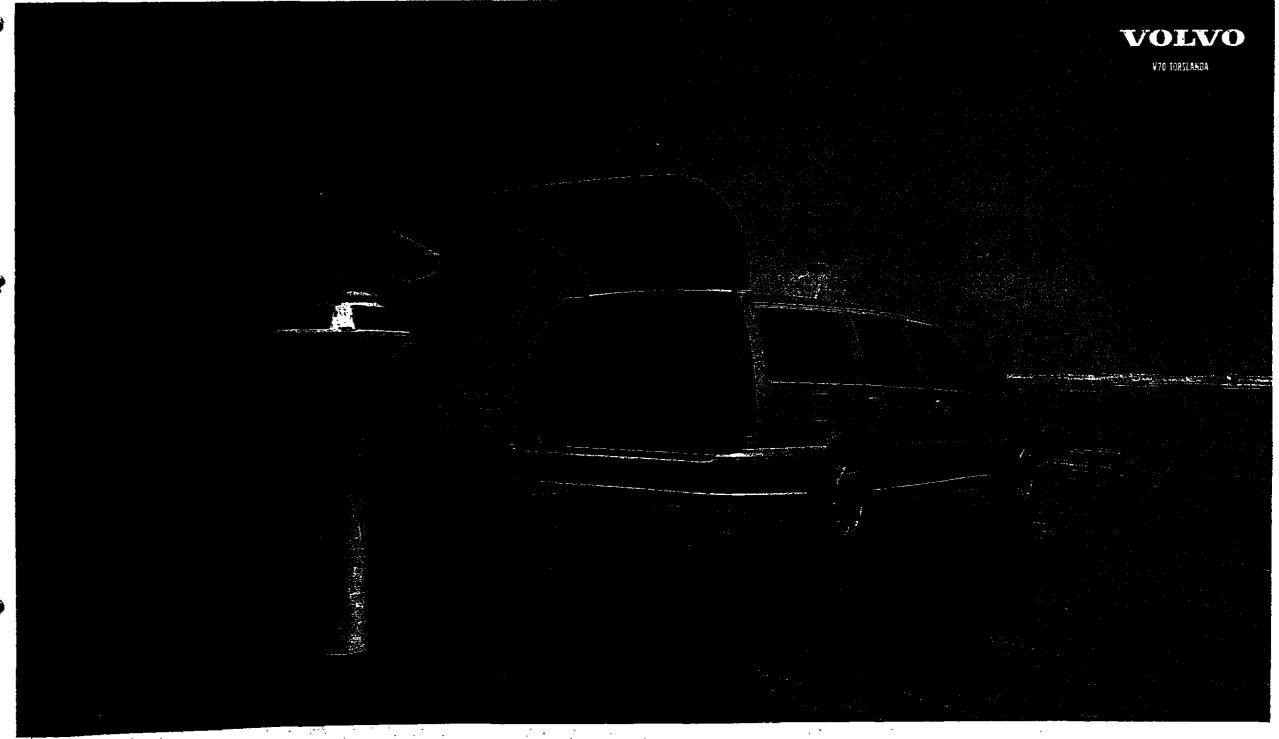
The secretary told the paper that she was shocked by the "malicious way" her employers had claimed Miss Harrild was

I found it very offensive."

crimination, "malicious" be- sacked because of her inability to do her job and that she was unpopular with other staff.

"I realise that I have nothing to gain and everything to lose, but I feel I have to tell the truth about what has happened."

A spokesman for Lords denied there had been any "untoward behaviour" towards



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All in a name: Paul Hamlyn (left) had hoped to give his name to the new South Bank, thus joining illustrious donors in Britain such as Sir John Moores and Baron Sainsbury

South Bank philanthropist trips up in his quest for immortality

THE publishing tycoon Lord Hamlyn was set for fame in posterity. The South Bank arts complex in London would have been renamed the Paul Hamlyn Centre, had not the Arts Council this week scuppered a planned refurbishment which Lord Hamlyn pledged to support with £17m.

The millionaire philanthropist would have joined

in his name, and Lord Sainsbury, who paid for the extension to the National Gallery, in becoming a feature on the artistic landscape.

The re-naming would also have confirmed a trend wellestablished in the United States where donations to good causes buy status and, for the most generous donors, immortality.

who funded the London gallery a Modern Times documentary gifts. "It's a very interesting pheprogramme. The Generous nomenon. We're getting more Rich, to be broadcast later this month, said: "In New York, philanthropy is a means to climb socially. People are loathe to admit it, but it's clear."

Colin Tweedy, director of Sponsorship of the Arts, said the situation in Britain differed from America, but British human beings want immortal-

Henry Tate, the sugar magnate the American charity scene for ed people to know about their altruistic that they do not want and more of it. As the state's role is reduced, corporates and

> important," he said. "A lot of the great givers in Britain were - or are - Jewish the Association for Business and the Jewish philosophy is that was not new. Balliol Colthat the best gift is an anonymous gift. However, most

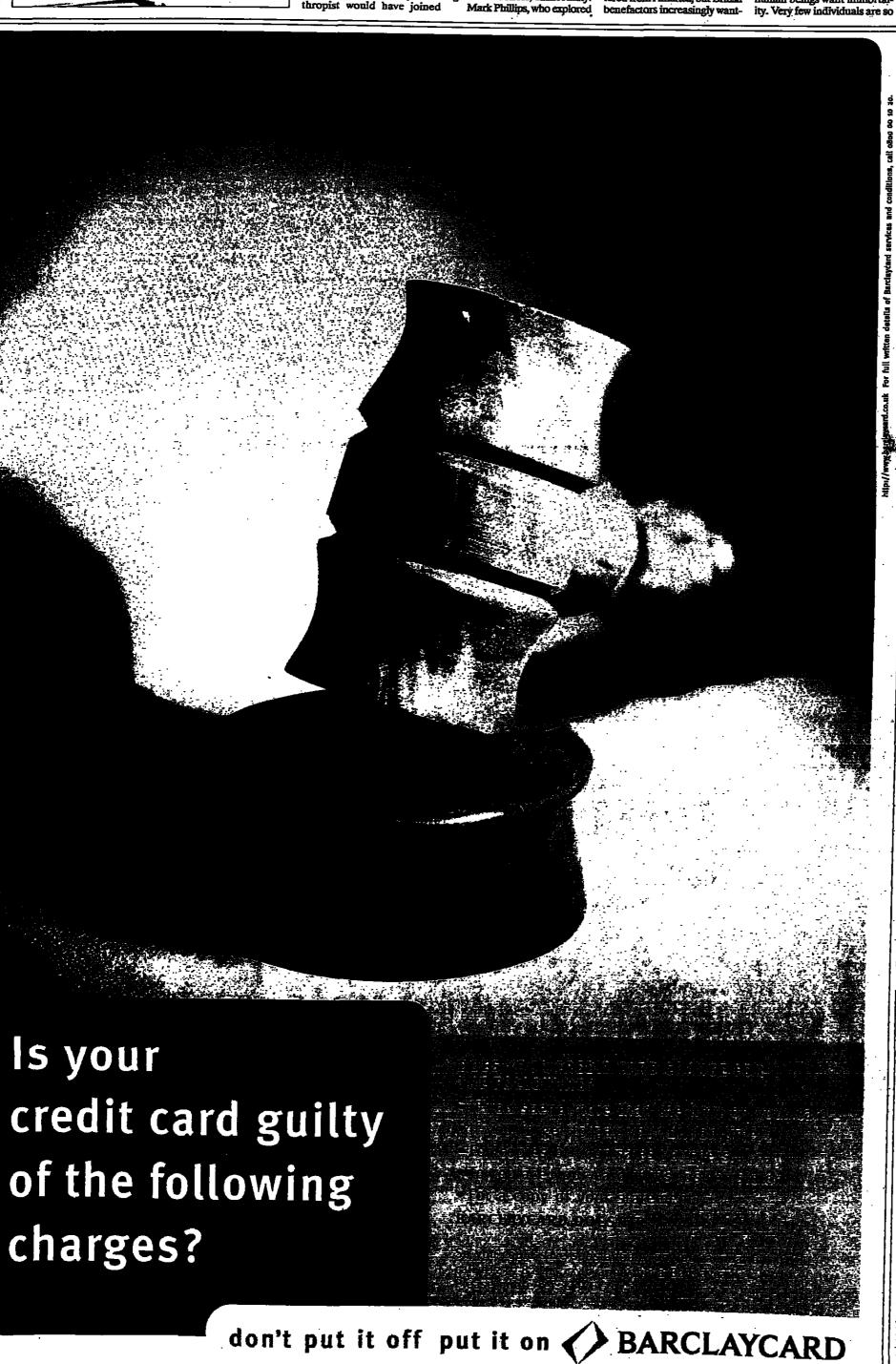
individuals are becoming more

their name used.

So there is now the Rupert Murdoch chair of communications at Worcester College, Oxford, Sir John Moores University in Liverpool and the Sainsbury wing of the National Gallery. But Mr Tweedy said lege in Oxford was founded in 1263 by the widow of John de Balliol

who yesterday won an award sponsored by Montblanc honouring individual patrons of the arts, said she and her husband, David, a property developer, did not want anything named after them. "It's the work that interests me," she said.

They set up annual lectures for young people by design innovators such as Issey Miyake, and funded matinees for school



Pill scare led to rise in pregnant under-16s

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

FAMILY planning campaigners the number of underage preg- al methods of contraception is nore than a decade.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that the 52 per cent of girls under 16 who conception rate among girls become pregnant have an aboraged 13 to 15 rose by 11 per cent tion. The total number of pregbetween 1995 and 1996. It is the nancies among girls under 1

been such a rise. In 1996, 8,800 girls under 16 years of age became pregnant, the highest number since 1985 when there were 9,406 underage pregnancies. The conception rate among this age group in 1996 was 9.4 per 1,000 girls, 11 per cent higher than the 1995

rate of 8.5 per 1,000. The Government is currently looking at ways to tackle the number of under-age pregnancies in Britain. A national programme is expected to be hanclied next May.

The Family Planning Association said that it was concerned by the figures and blamed the increase in part on the Pill scare of October 1995. As a result of health fears, young girls may have delayed us. ing contraception despite becoming sexually active.

Anne Weyman, chief executive of the FPA, said: "We urge a national policy which will guarantee good information and advice for young people to help them make informed

And Ann Furedi of the Birth Control Trust added: "The Pill

women's confidence in hormonal methods of contraception. The Pill was damaged in the eyes of young women and warned yesterday that the ram- they saw it as less desirable to ifications of the health scare in start on it. Whether or not they 1995 over some brands of the sought alternative methods of contraceptive Pill were still un- contraception we don't know, folding, as it was revealed that but the advantage of hormonnancies was the highest for that you don't have to think

about it at the time." Yesterday's figures show that dropped from an all-time high

in 1985 of 9,406 to 7,243 in 1993. The overall conception rate among women aged 15 to 44 increased slightly between 1995 and 1996 from 74 to 76 per

There are clear regional differences in the rates of teenage pregnancies. In 1994-96, the deprived south London district of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham had the highest conception rate among under-16s in England and Wales - 17.6 per 1,000 - while the East Surrey health authority area had the lowest rate of 3.5 among this age

One of the initiatives to tackle underage pregnancies favoured by public health minister Tessa Jowell is to encourage teenage boys to talk about the emotional as well as physical aspects of relationships.

Focus groups designed to look at the issue, involving the speedy implementation of young people, parents and teachers, will be set up in the

"There is a role for parents and for teachers," Ms Jowell said. "Having sex at 12 or 13 robs you of your childhood and it is the job of parents and teachscare seriously undermined ers to safeguard a childhood."

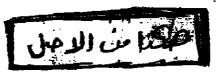
DAILY POEM

Lithium

By Robin Robertson

After the arc of ECT and the blunt concussion of pills they gave him lithium to cling to the psychiatrist's stone. A metal that floats on water. must be kept in kerosene, can be drawn into wire. (He who had jumped in the harbout burnt his hair off, been caught hanging from the light.) He'd heard it was once used to make hydrogen bombs, but now was a coolant for nuclear reactors. so he broke out of hospital barefoot and walked ten miles to meet me in the snow.

"Lithium" comes from Penguin Modern Poets 13 (Penguin, £7.99), which will be the last volume in this influential series. It contains a selection from the work of Michael Hofmann, Michael Longley and Robin Robertson, chosen by the poets



immortality

By Patrick Cockburn SENIOR Iraqi army officers

who have fled Iraq in recent years plan to set up their own military organisation to overthrow President Saddam Hussein. The move comes because they are frustrated by the helplessness and divisions within the Iraqi political opposition.

"Army officers outside Iraq know those inside and still in the army," says General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, the former head of Iraqi military intelligence, who escaped from Baghdad in 1994. "A military organisation

should be set up in northern Iraq [Iraqi Kurdistan where there are no Iraqi troops] or in a neighbouring Arab country."

The move is relevant because of greatly increased support for the Iraqi opposition from the Republican majority in the US Congress, who see the defusing of the crisis over the inspection of iraqi weapons of mass destruction as a defeat for America. They have added \$38m (£24m) for opponents of President Saddam to the US State Department authorisation bill.

General Samarra'i helped organise a small opposition army under the aegis of the Iraqi National Congress, an opposition umbrella group, which in 1995 tried to overthrow President Saddam through armed attacks aimed at fomenting mutinies and defections within the Iraqi army. He told The Independent: "The political opposition is helpless because they are

Ironically, American support for Iraqi opposition groups is increasing just as their ability to overthrow the fraqi government is on the decline. Although the US Congress is likely to allocate funds for their support, they no longer have any true safe havens in Kurdistan or in the Marshes of

The head of the Iraqi



received by Kurdish leaders in Arbil and Sulaymaniyah, their main cities, in January.

General Samarra'i admis that the chances of a successful coup d'etat were diminished by the agreement brokered by Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, with President Saddam. He believes that some Iraqi generals would have moved against the regime if US and British air strikes had occurred in February.

He says the Iraqi leader will move quickly to improve his relations with Arab governments in Egypt, Syria and the United Arab Emirates, He does not think that President Saddam will give up his weapons of mass destruction, not least because they played a key role in the defeat of Iran by Iraq in the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq war.

General Samarra'i, who then headed Iraqi military intelligence against Iran, paints a chilling picture of President Saddam's use of chemical weapons, culminating in a plan to put chemical warheads on missiles fired at Tehran, the Iranian capital, in 1988. He says the Iraqi leader was worned that poison gas, being heavier than air, would keep low and Iranians would be able to survive by sealing doors and windows and getting into high buildings.

The plan devised by Iraqi military staff officers was first to send in Iraqi fighter-bombers to strike at Tehran. General Samarra'i says: "They planned

to bombard the city with bombs which would break all the glass in the windows. This would allow the gas to spread."

At Halabja, a Kurdish city in Iraq, some 7,000 Kurds were killed by Iraqi poison gas in 1988 and those that survived continue to suffer genetic defects.

Other Iraqi observers believe that President Saddam's determination to keep some chemical and biological weapons comes from their successful use against Iran. One, who was in touch with the Iranian leadership in 1988, says Iraq sent a private message to them saying that it might put chemical warheads on its missiles. He says this was a significant rea-

son why Iran sued for peace. The general says that Iraq

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estimated Iran suffered 90,000 casualties from chemical weapons in the war. Iran says that the figure is 50,000, of whom 10 per cent died. This excludes the Kurdish civilians killed at Halabja. A UN mission of in-

quiry, which visited Iran and Iraq at the time, put the blame on both sides, though it did not visit Halabja. Western criticism of the use of poison gas against Iranians was muted.

Currently General Samarra'i says that Iraq has about 40 missiles left. He says a UN figure of two or three is based on the number delivered by the Soviet Union before the Gulf War, but there are others which were made out of Soviet spare parts or which were largely

He says they are accurate only to within some three kilometres, but this does not matter in the case of chemical or biological warheads. He believes that there are about 100 cases of biological weapons which could be put in warheads.

Between 1986 and 1989 General Samarra'i was the chief military contact between the CIA in the US Embassy in Baghdad and the Iraqi Army. He says he met with the CLA once or twice a week to be shown US satellite pictures of Iranian positions and moredetailed maps based on the pictures showing US analysis of what they represented. In 1989 President Saddam, after the defeat of Iran, ordered that conmanufactured in Iraq itself. tacts with the CIA cease.



Two sides: A protest holding a poster of Saddam Hussein in a demonstration egainst United Nations anctions outside the **UN Development** Program headquarters in Baghdad yesterday. Above, General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, who escaped from Baghdad in 1994 and advocates military action against

Officers in exile plot Saddam's fall

The new Terios.

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Right-wing fury at Israel's TV history

By Eric Silver ir. Jerusziem

ISRAEL'S public service television is fighting off angry demands from right-wing ministers and MPs to pull a critical 22-part series on the first 50 years of the Jewish state.

The series, Thumah ("Rebirth"), has shone a harsh light on Israel's treatment of its Arab minority and its oriental Jewish immigrants in the 11 episodes screened so far. A surprise hit with Israelis, it mercilessly showed how national heroes such as Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan squandered the opportunity for peace in the years be-

A programme to be screened next month will depict what Israelis call "terror" and the Palestinians "armed struggle" from both sides of the barricade, using footage from PLO archives captured during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, as well as interviews with Israeli

Yehoram Gaon, a popular actor and singer who introduced each episode, sparked the

Communications Minister, demanded that the broadcasting authority take it off the air immediately and urged the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to intervene, "I don't know any normal nation that would present the other side's position so

of international pressure.

of solitary was expected by the end of the week, ahead of a

Supreme Court hearing on the case: Mr Feldman said the

government apparently changed its position, in part, because

· has caused severe damage to the state of Israel."

Hanan Porat, a settler MP. called on Tkamah's producers to make a second series from a "national" perspective. Moshe Peled, the Deputy Education Minister, accused the documentary makers of presenting half-truths in the guise of history.

The authority rejected these strictures, though it will follow the more controversial episodes with a live debate. One veteran broadcaster said privately: "We have grown up. We're no longer living in the days when the news was controlled from

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the prime minister's office." Spokesman Zvi Lidar told tween the 1967 and 1973 wars. The Independent: "We knew we were picking at open wounds. But each programme was made with the help of ... historians representing different political views and different approaches to history." Ronit Weiss-Berkowitz, who directed the episode on armed struggle, defended her treatment. "At times the film adopted the other side's point of view and those are pictures we are not used to seeing," she said. "One of the objectives was to 1370cm Limor Livnat, the Likud understand that blood was spilt on the other side as well." Ban Pape, a historian at the university of Haifa who has challenged the Zionist version of the Israeli state's formative years. 1350cm said Tloamah was a sign that such criticism had become legitimate. "It will be more difficult favourably," she said. "That ... to limit the debate now," he said. Nuclear spy moved from solitary JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel has decided to release the spy Mordechai Vanunu from solitary confinement and move him into a cell with other prisoners, his lawyer said yesterday. Avigdor Feldman also said there was a possibility that Vanumu would be released once he has completed two-thirds of his 18-year sentence next month. A former technician at Israel's nuclear reactor in Dimona, Vanuum, 43, gave photographs of the plant to the Sunday Times. Based on the information, experts said that Israel has the world's sixth-largest arsenal of nuclear weapons. He has been held in isolation since 1986. A formal announcement concerning Vanunu's move out

Rogues and ruffians bid to lead Filipinos

Stephen Vines reports as voters face an uphill struggle to choose a president



PICKING their way through a crowded field of mad, bad and frankly unlikely candidates, Filipino voters are hardly spoiled for choice in the forthcoming presidential election.

They may well opt for a hard-drinking, womanising gambler, or possibly a candidate often portrayed as barmy. There's also a "Dirty Harrytype" police chief, a former television reader who describes herself as "Princess Diana incarnate", and, as ever, the world's most famous shoe hoarder, Imelda Marcos.

The field is so devoid of candidates showing the slightest interest in policy or integrity that the big money has been reluctantly dumped on Jose de Venecia, the almost aggressively uninspiring Speaker of the House of Representatives and choice of the outgoing President, Fidel Ramos. Mr de Venecia is the epitome of the old-style wheeler dealer politician and fixer.

But, and this is important, he is not a well-known drunk, nor would he be likely to turn up at official functions with a

The same cannot be said for the front runner in the campaign, Joseph "Erap" Estrada. He is bemused by President Bill Clinton's "Zippergate" prob-

lems, advising him to brazen it out. This is certainly what Erap would do. He makes little secret of his roving eye and his mistresses. Neither is he much bothered if everyone knows about his love of gambling and

He has chosen Ronald Reagan as a role model, but the resemblance does not appear to extend much beyond the fact that both are former actors. Although he is vice-president, he is barely on speaking terms with President Ramos. The President frets that Mr Estrada cannot be trusted to turn up at meetings on time or to pay the slightest attention once he gets

However, an adoring public

seems to be little bothered with the concerns of Mr Ramos. They still see Mr Estrada as the movie idol who, with guns blazing, would burst onto the silver screen fighting for the downtrodden against the rich and powerful. His nickname, Erap, is a play on words with the Tagalog word, pere, meaning friend or buddy. The widegirthed Erap, with his slicked-back hair, is everyone's

Although Erap is ahead in the polls, the campaign proper has only just begun, and vot-



Well met: Jose de Venecia (above left) shaking hands with fellow candidate and former screen idol, Joseph 'Erap' Estrada, and Imelda Marcos, former first lady, holding a fish she bought while campaigning at a Manila market Photographs: Popperfoto and Erik de Castro/Reuters

May. This gives Mr de Venecia Clinton, who, so she says, often time to mobilise his mighty party machine, collect sacks of money from the big tycoons in the Makarti business district and hit the road with his attractive running mate Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who spends a great deal of time on the campaign trail belting out popular

Her father was a President but, perhaps, an equally strong claim to fame comes from being does not take place until 11 ing a classmate of President

walked her home.

In the last presidential election, Fidel Ramos was given a strong run for his money by Miriam Defensor-Santiago. She is not known for her reticence. Opponents can expect to be described as "fungus faced", at best, and "crooks", at worst. .

ongs with her husband. Her enemies, a large and varied group, cast doubt on her sanity but, as she mounts the campaign platform to the strains of the "Star Wars"

theme, she woos the crowds with declarations of the war she has declared on vested interests.

Less ebullient is Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, like Fidel Ramos, once a close associate of the deposed autocrat Perdinand Marcos, who rapidly became a hero of the People's Power revolution once it was clear that Marcos was on the way out. Now aged 74, he cannot really sing or dance but he does have a great deal of mon-

ey and some very influential

friends. Why the senator is rending of "Dahil Sa Iyo", standing is something of a mystery, but he hates to feel left out.

That, presumably, is why Imelda Marcos, wife of the late Ferdinand, has thrown her hat into the ring, yet again. The courts are ready to put

her in jail for phindering the nation's coffers but the legal system in the Philippines works in mysterious ways so she is free to take her shoe collection around the country, pausing at regular intervals to give an emotional

meaning: "because of you". Amando Doronila, one of

the Philippines' best-known political commentators, says, "never has been there been an election so bankrupt of political ideas and so dominated by personalities".

Exactly the same was said about the last presidential election yet it yielded the administration of Fidel Ramos who is widely regarded to have been not a bad president.

Suharto ovel army warns student rioters

By Richard Lloyd Parry in Yogyakarta

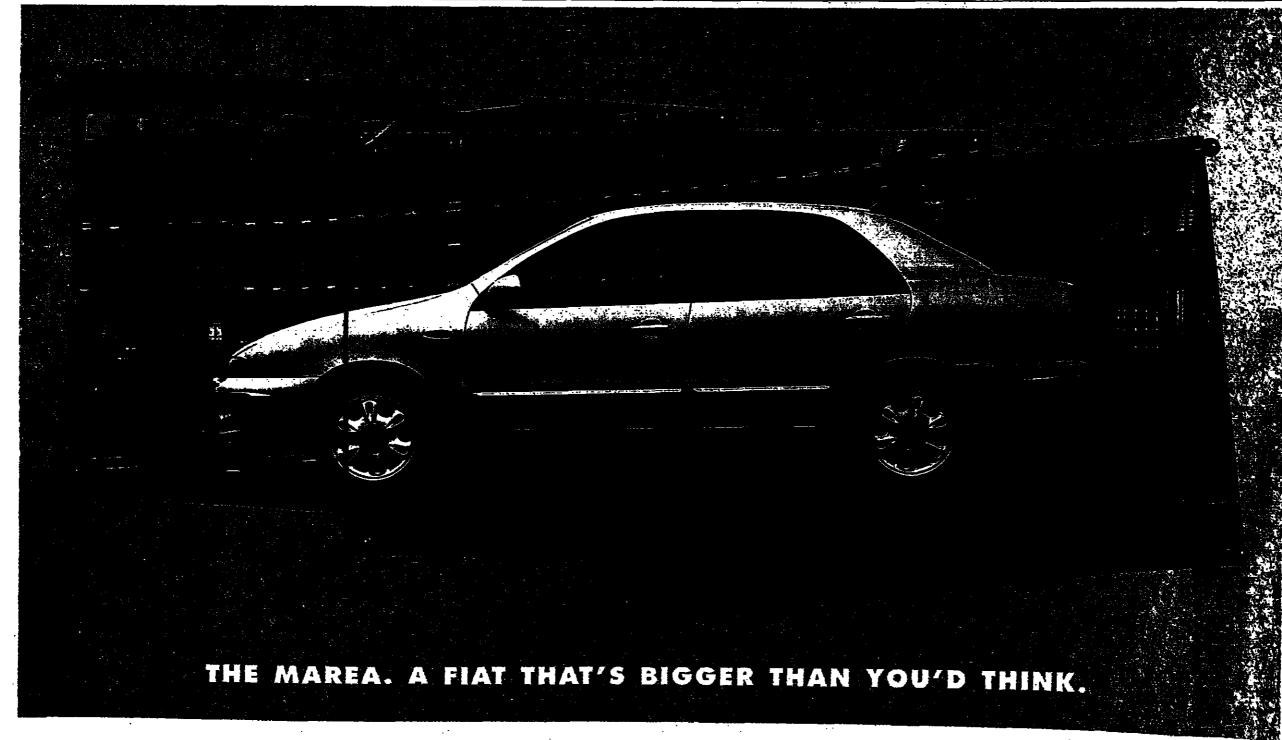
INDONESIAN students lought with police in further campus demonstrations against President Suharto yesterday, while the commander of the armed forces warned that the army would act against protesters who engage in "destructive acts".

"Abri [the Indonesian armed forces] clearly insists that such activities should be controlled and not be directed to unhealthy and disorderly acts," General Wiranto told reporters at the defence department in Jakarta, "If their actions are destructive, then ... they have to face the legal apparatus, which includes the armed forces."

Campus demonstrations have taken place all over indonesia throughout the 11-day meeting of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) which re-elected President Subarto for a seventh consecutive term on Wednesday.

Yesterday, small and peaceful protests took place for the second day running in Jakarta and Yogyakarta in Java. But in Surabaya, Indonesia's second city, a dozen students were injured in fights with police, four of them seriously.

Indonesia is suffering from drought and an economic crisis which has seen the value of the rupiah drop by more than two-thirds. "We are in a monetary, economic and confidence crisis that will be difficult to get out of," President Suharto admitted yesterday. "It is no exaggeration to say that the development success we have achieved in the past 30 years seems to have been destroyed suddenly by this crisis."



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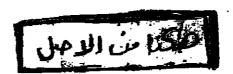
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A army Lewinsky to sue warns Studen Tripp over tapes

MONICA LEWINSKY, the former White House trainee who may or may not have had an affair with President Bill Clinton and been prevailed upon to lie about it, is suing her one-time colleague and confidante, Linda Tripp, for violating her privacy, according to her lawyer, William Ginsburg.

The disclosure, made by the publicity conscious lawyer in an interview with the doyen of United States television talkshow hosts, CNN's Larry King, brought back to centre stage the question of Ms Tripp's secretly recorded tapes.

With both Ms Lewinsky and Mr Clinton denying under oath that they had a sexual relationship, the tapes are so far the only evidence to the contrary. In more than 30 hours of talk, Ms Lewinsky apprises her friend of intimate details relating to what she says was an 18-month affair

with the President. She reportedly tells Ms Tripp, a former member of the White House staff who now works for the Pentagon, about presents she received from Mr Clinton, trysts in the Oval Office, her prowess in performing oral sex, her unhappiness on being transferred to the Pentagon and her disappointment when the relationship





A friendship betrayed: Lewinsky (top) and Tripp

ended. The tapes were played this week for the benefit of the grand jury hearing testimony in the Lewinsky case.

The route by which the tapes emerged as legal evidence is one of the most controversial aspects of the saga. Ms Tripp is said to have taken them personally to the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, who was then investigating the Clintons' involvement in the Whitewater

bearing them, he received permission to extend his inquiry to encompass the allegation that Mr Clinton may have perjured himself by denying an affair with Ms Lewinsky and inducing her

Mr Starr then helped Ms Tripp to be "wired up" by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to record a further conversation; It was at the end of this clandestine recording session. that Ms Tripp's stratagem was exposed and a distressed Ms Lewinsky was confronted with the contradiction between her sworn denial and what she told her friend on tape. Ms Tripp, from whom little

had been heard until yesterday when she gave an interview to the newspaper USA Today says she wanted people to know the truth about the Clinton White House. But she has become a figure of popular opprobrium for betraying the trust of her friend. A resident of Maryland, she could also face legal charges because clandestine recording is a crime in that state. She also appears to be encountering difficulties at work, claiming to have been deprived of some of her duties. A Pentagon spokesman denied her title or \$80,000-plus '(£50,000) salary would change and said there was no move to

end her employment.



Bare essentials: Models posing in Milan for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) in the first 'Rather Go Naked Than Use Fur' campaign airned at men, fashion's latest target Photograph: Antoni Calanni

US aircrew blamed for 20 deaths

AVIANO (Reuters) – The US military terday blamed the crew of a Marine Conjet for the deaths of 20 people in a calif car tragedy in Italy and said the men migh be court-martialled on manslaughter of homicide charges.

Major General Michael DeLong, Marines Corp deputy commander in the Atlantic, told a news conference at the US airbase in Aviano, north-east Italy, that "aircrew error" had caused the plane to shear cable-car wires and send the car plunging into a mountain.

Gen DeLong's report said the crew of the EA-6B Prowler surveillance aircraft "aggressively manoeuvred their aircraft, exceeded the maximum air speed and flew well below 1,000 feet" on a training mission on 3 February.

Lieutenant-General Peter Pace, commander of US Marine forces in the Atlantic, said he had ordered a pre-trial investigation into the crew and an investigation of all other officers involved in the mission in the Dolomites mountains.

The crew inquiry would consider "whether charges such as involuntary manslaughter or negligent homicide, damage to private and government property and dereliction of duty should be referred to a general court martial," he said.

Italian prosecutors are also investigating the incident in which the victims, crushed below the mangled wreckage of the car in the resort of Cavalese, died instantly.

Gen DeLong said Marine Corps investigators had not been able to question the "mishap crew" members. The men had declined to answer questions. "We have not been able to interview the air crew so we have no idea what they thought or what they were thinking." he said.

Rising number of US Muslims threatens to displace Jewish lobby

By Mary Dejevsky

IN LITTLE more than a decade, the number of Muslims in the United States is set to overtake the number of Jews, in a shift that has far-reaching implications for America's domestic and foreign policy.

By 2010, it is estimated that the US Muslim population -,

tannica Book of the Year gives only proportions, saving Jews, who accounted for 3.3 per cent of the population in the mid-Seventies, will account for only 2 per cent in 2000. By 2010, it projects, the proportion of Muslims and

Jews will have switched. Figures obtained from Jewish and Muslim organisations,

number of Jews. The 1997 Bri- - about 6 million each. The US Census Bureau does not record statistics by religion or culture. But what is incontestable, is that in purely numerical terms the position of Jews and Muslims is being reversed.

The increase in Muslim numbers reflects partly immigration from the Indian subcontinent and north Africa in which has risen from an esti- however, suggest the crossing the Sixties and Seventies, but fluence of US Muslims is remaited 0.4 per cent of the pop- point may already have been "also the accelerating rate of ported in this week's Newweek". It says Muslims are emergulation to almost 1.4 per cent reached. They give similar fig- conversion by Afficence of US Muslims is rethe Middle East."

It says Muslims are emergulation to almost 1.4 per cent reached. They give similar fig- conversion by Afficence of US Muslims is rethe Middle East."

It says Muslims are emerging in the professions and as a

count for half the present number of Muslims and the number of converts is increasing fast.

If it were just a matter of numbers, the effect of this shift might be limited. The prominence of American Jews has long enabled them to punch above their weight in politics and business. But the Muslims are catching up. The growing in-

Islam" - an Americanised blend of the strands of Islam which has little truck with restrictions on women. "The US is arguably the best place on earth to be Muslim," the report says. "Multicultural democracy, with its guarantees of reli-

gious freedom and speech, makes life easier for Muslims than in many Islamic states in

lims, it concludes, may become a force to be reckoned with.

The demographic trend has not gone unnoticed by the White House. At the end of Ramadan, the President sent a message to the Islamic countries and American Muslims, and Hillary Clinton hosted a party for Muslim women.

It is in foreign priorities where the demographic shift may be felt most keenly. Already, the coolness between IsWashington has clipped .US wings in the Middle East. It has also provoked divisions among American Jews about how Washington should proceed.

But while policy differences and declining numbers may weaken the celebrated "Jewish lobby", there is as yet no Islamic lobby to challenge for more influence. And Washington, still caught in the thicket of past hostilities with Iraq, Iran and were 1,571 cases, resulting in 78 Libva, is finding it hard to con- arrests. A record 2.066 cases

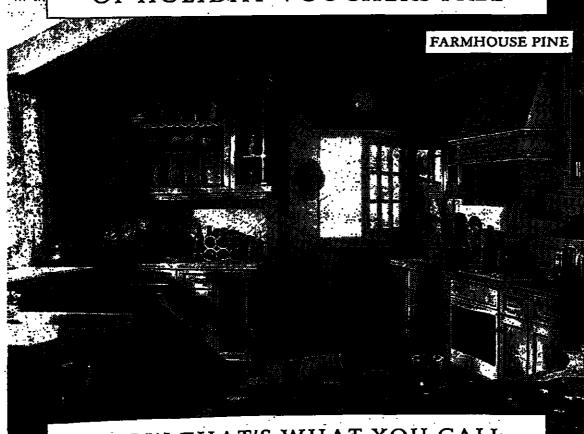
Within the decade, however, it may not be thirst for Middle East oil that pushes Washington to treat with Arabs, but a wealthy, vocal and streamlined lobby right in its midst.

■ Chicago (Reuters) — The

number of anti-Semitic incidents in the US has dropped for the third consecutive year last year, the Anti-Defamation League reported. In 1997 there

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Danish PM clings to power

DENMARK'S Social Democrat-led government scored the narrowest of victories in Wednesday's general elections - its one-seat majority served up by a few hundred waverers in Greenland, writes Imre Karacs.

Confounding opinion polls which had predicted a win for the opposition led by Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the outgoing administration's expert handling of the economy was rewarded by the voters, but the extreme right made strong gains.

"I want the present economic policy to continue," Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen declared after his triumph. "There will be no slackening."

During Mr Rasmussen's tenure since 1993, unemployment has been nearly halved, to just over 7 per cent, the economy has experienced one of Europe's best growth rates, and budget deficits turned into a surplus last year. Yet this boom has not prevented the rise of the racist Danish People's Party, which scored more than 7 per cent and enters the political stage with 13 MPs at its first attempt.

Turkey plays the spectre at feast for the new Europe

THE LEADERS of the 26 present and aspiring members of the European Union yesterday celebrated the impending launch of EU enlargement, only to find the lavish affair dominated by Turkey, the country that refused to attend the party.

The first European Conference, two-and-a-half hours of choreographed confabulation on either side of a state hmcheon hosted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace, was above all symbolic, marking what the Commission President, Jacques Santer, called a "historic chance" to unite Europe for the first time in 500 years.

But from the potential stumbling block of Cyprus to the Conference's one substantial decision, to step up co-operation in the fight against illegal drugs trafficking, the ghost of Turkey, which refused to come after being excluded from even the second wave of candidate countries, dogged proceedings.

An offer from Glavkos Clerides, President of the internationally recognised Greek Cypriot republic, to include Turkish Cypriots in the team

which is scheduled to open negotiations with Brussels at the end of this month, appeared

doomed to rejection, as it failed to meet Ankara's demand for prior recognition of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, the statelet headed by Rauf Denktash. EU foreign ministers will make another attempt to bridge the gap when they meet informally in Edinburgh today and tomorrow. But if they fail to do so, Cyprus may turn into

an obstacle that conceivably could wreck the entire en-Britain insists that, failing an agreement, accession talks should none the less start with the Clerides government. France, however, feels the ex-

ment had not been achieved. But if the French have their way and EU discussions with Cyprus are put on ice, then Greece might retaliate by blocking the start of entry talks with the other five firstround candidates - Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Slovenia. Negotiations with Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Roma-

ercise would be pointless if the

Turkish Cypriots were absent

and an overall Cyprus settle-

The absence of Turkey removed much of the point of this drugs initiative by the EU, given that Tinkey's position between Asia and Europe makes it a key conduit for hard drugs like opium and heroin from the Far East and the former Soviet republics of central Asia.

Having failed with every blandishment to lure the Turkish Prime Minister, Mesut Yilmaz, to yesterday's summit, the EU can but hope Ankara swiftly changes its mind. The invitation was "genuinely meant", Tony Blair insisted yesterday. The conference was a

"great political occasion", President Jacques Chirac told his colleagues, "I have only one regret, the absence of Turkey. Turkey has a place among us." But Mr Yilmaz seems to

have decided otherwise, and blames Germany above all for the impasse, accusing it of insisting on a "Christian Europe," in which it might acquire more "Lebensraum" to the East. That reference to the Nazi justification for the extra territories it seized in the Second World War has especially in-



Old hands: Tony Blair with the French President Jacques Chirac at Buckingham Palace yesterday Photograph: Reuters

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Germany keeps race at heart of citizenship

THE LATEST attempt to reform Germany's anachronistic. law on citizenship has been sacrificed on the altar of government unity.

Threatened with the demise of the coalition, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's junior partners, the Free Democrats, abandoned plans this week to support a change in the racia

motivated rules on nationality. Their U-turn robs hundreds of thousands of children born in the country of the chance to automatically become Ger-

Since 1913, a German has been defined as a person with German blood in his or her

Millions of "ethnic Germans", whose ancestors had been settled in Russia by Catherine the Great, have "returned" to the land of their forefathers, many unable to utter so much as a Guten Tag. They do. however, enjoy all the trim-mings of the welfare state, including a passport, subsidised language courses and generous resettlement grants.

Immigrants, their children and their children's children brought up and educated in Germany have, meanwhile, remained nationals of the old

Unlike most other states in Europe, Germany does not grant citizenship to people who are merely born and resident in Germany.

An estimated seven million "foreigners" are reckoned to be living in Germany. The Free Democrats, the opposition Social Democrats, and some lead-ing politicians in Chancellor Kohl's party, have recognised that the current practice hinders their integration.

After protracted horse-trading, the Social Democrats struck a compromise with the liberal elements in the government.

Their amendment, which was due to go to the Bundestag later this month, proposed to grant automatic citizenship to the children of "foreigners", in cases when at least one parent had been born in Germany.

In practice, this change would have mostly affected third-generation "Gastarbeiter" -workers imported in the Sixties for tasks deemed even then too menial for the natives.

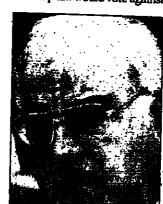
At the age of 18, such "new Germans" would have still had to choose between their German passport and the nationality of their grandparents, because Bonn does not recognise dual citizenship. And the amended law would have re-

tained the overwhelming priority accorded to genetic origin.

But even this minor relaxation proved too radical for the right. Bavaria's Christian Social Union, the most conservative faction in the governing block, had vehemently opposed any

In the end, the mainstream represented by Chancelior Kohl was forced to come down in favour of the Bavarians. mocrat defectors had inflicted an unprecedented defeat on the government, siding with the opposition on the vote on a controversial bugging law.

After that fiasco, the Bavarians made it clear that their liberal partners would not get away with another act of defiance. "Anyone from the FDP who votes with the SPD on citizenship law would vote against



Kohl: Had to shelve reform

the coalition and destroy its basis for co-operation," warned Bernd Protzner, the General Secretary of the Christian Social Union. The FDP heard the message and surrendered.

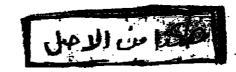
The row and eventual impasse over this issue is a perfect illustration of the paralysis in Bonn. In the past four years, Chancellor Kohl has had to shelve virtually all his reform plans because of sniping from the wings. With elections approaching and the coalition heading for defeat, the tur-

moil is set to become worse. Not content with shooting down the nationality law, the Bavarians are upping the stakes, demanding tighter restrictions on foreigners already resident in Germany.

That in turn is likely to prooke a backlash from the Free Democrats, who must urgently demonstrate their enduring liberal spirit to their dwindling

None of this is improving Mr Kohi's electoral chances. The latest poll puts the CDU-CSU block 11 points behind the resurgent Social Democrats. while the FDP is tectering on the brink of extinction.





17/FOREIGN

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Milosevic races to halt killing in Kosovo By Andrew Gumbel

in Belgrade

THE Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is racing against the clock to solve the Kosovo casis having put the province on the international agenda by supporting the killing of dozens of Albanian villagers.

With the international community threatening sanctions if he fails to act positively in the next 10 days, he must now decide whether to escalate the tension he has created, or to sit down and negotiate seriously. This test of his political met-

tle could not be played out over a more intractable problem. The Kosovo question has threatened to pit Albanians and Serbs against each other in armed conflict since 1989, when the province's Albanian majority lost their autonomy and found themselves subject to a police state controlled from Belgrade.

Long before the current killing spree, the Albanians cut off all relations with the Serbs and created their own parallel state as a prelude to a full independence. The Serbs, meanwhile, refused to let the province go, vaunting their nationalist attachment to the land of the first Serb rulers and the seat of the Serb Orthodox Church.

While President Milosevic's government has continued to insist that Kosovo remain Serb, the reality is that fewer and fewer Serbs are staying and only the repressive police presence has prevented an Albanian takeover.

The paramilitary attacks on rural villages, dressed up as a campaign to root out Albanian terrorism, have actually served President Milosevic quite well in domestic politics: he has created consensus in the frag-

ile coalition government : distracted attention from their desperate economic problems. But now he has to deal with

an enraged outside world. The six-nation Contact Group imposed a number of punitive measures last Monday and threatened further sanctions if progress towards a solution was not apparent by 25 March.

Essentially, President Milosevic has three options: he could resume the police attacks and escalate the conflict; he could use

the threat of war as an excuse to give Kosovo away; or hecould keep sowing confusion and milk the crisis for all it is

The advantage of the first option, total force, is that it would keep alive the nationalist dream that brought him to power. The disadvantage is that Serbs have been deeply disillusioned by the Yugoslav wars of secession and have little stomach for another fight. An already impoverished Serbia probably could not survive another bout of deep international isolation and could be devoured if the conflict sucked in the Albanian communities of Macedonia, Bulgaria and Albania itself.

The advantage of the second option, capitulation, is that Kosovo cannot be maintained by force alone and risks becoming a serious political liability as the Albanian population swells and Serbian numbers dwindle. If Kosovo remains within Serbia, it could be just a few decades before the Albanians can outvote the Serbs - not just in their own province, but in the country as a whole.

The disadvantage is that capitulation would never be swallowed by a political class that has vowed time and again to keep Kosovo Serbian.

That leaves option three, fudging. This is certainly the game Mr Milosevic has played airwaves to make self-serving so far: yesterday he sent a negotiating team to Pristina, the Kosovo capital, to hold talks with the Albanians. Only the day before, however, the police had forced villagers to bury their dead without forensic scientific examination of the bodies. T he Albanians turned down the offer to talk, calling it a Serbian

exercise in "play-acting". Mr Milosevic was one of the key instigators of the national sentiments that triggered the fighting: when the time was ripe, however, he softened his line and made himself an indispensable guarantor of peace.

He seems to want to play a similar game in Kosovo. But does he really have anything to offer the Albanians, and can the exasperated international community avoid falling into the same trap again?



Star performers: Israeli girls waving yesterday during the annual parade in Tel Aviv for the Jewish festival of Purim – the Feast of Lots, which celebrates deliverance from the plot of Haman. A quarter of a million people lined the city's streets Photograph: Eya Warshavsky/AP

Swept by a gale of vodka and humbug

T'S OVER for another year, thank God. While International Women's Day slides by unnoticed by most other countries, Russia marks the occasion with a two-day holiday in which the entire country is swept by a gale of humbug, bogus gallantry, and vodka.

This year was even worse than last. One male politician after another barged onto the speeches about the wonders of the fairer sex.

The occasion did at least offer the Russian media a chance to explore the intricacies of the male attitude to women, who are generally viewed as awesome matriarchs or simpering ornaments or - occasionally both. There were several surveys about gender, the most sting of which was published by Moskovski Komsomolets newspaper.

Muscovites were asked to name the women they felt had played "a superlative role in world history, politics, art, literature sport, and other areas of human life". The overwhelming winner - with 21 per cent - was Margaret Thatcher. Princess Diana came third with 11 per cent. Catherine the Great only managed fifth place. The respect Russians hold for

wrinkled trunk - like the long-MOSCOW faced Russians themselves, ele-DIARY phants are clearly thought to be happier than they look.

This will have to be chalked up as one of the many small, strange differences that separate the British from the Russians. Most defy explanation. Why do Russians insist they will get a sore throat if they drink chilled drinks, yet buy ice cream on the streets in the middle of winter? And why do they believe overcoats carry germs, a conviction held with such vehemence that they are insulted if you keep

your anorak on indoors? They feel equally baffled by us. The other day, I invited a handful of Russian colleagues for an early-evening drink. I offered them some ripe brie and camembest, and semi-sweet

novelty, and they fell on it with the eagerness of Tiggers trying Pooh's honey. Big mistake. "Why do you foreigners like this stuff?" asked one, wavy-lipped with disgust. "I suppose it's not really surprising," volunteered Yelena, our two-year-old's nanny, "I have known this family for two years and not once have I seen them eat a single slice of

sausage." There was universal

astonishment

here). The cheese was clearly a

The reason for Oleg's elephant-like glee is parked on a patch of icy mud outside his front door. He is, he announced, the proud owner of a new, bright red Niva. When you consider what he went through to get it his rapture is justified.

his annual salary. So he took a

the car over, knowing that there would be no exchange or refund if it turned out to be a duffer. They found two significant faults, which Oleg later fixed at home.

While the West is moving to correct the damage wrought by the motor age, this city is only just entering it. Like most Muscovites, Oleg has no garage, but a light-weight metal shed, which looks like a bread bin.

Nor does he have insurance, as the \$700 annual fee is well beyond the pittance he earns as a linguistic expert in the Russian army. What happens if your new wheels are stolen, I asked? He shrugged. But the moment we switched on the engine to take it for a spin, his elderly mother shot out of his was chunky and not suitable for The car cost way over front door to check us out. Who media coverage, he said. needs a car alarm?

China makes rights pledge

CHINA yesterday made its most forthright commitment yet to sign the United Nations covenant on human rights. The foreign minister, Qian Qichen, said Peking "intends to sign" the pact, but gave no timescale.

Peking is buoyed by the European Union's decision not to sponsor a motion criticising China's human rights record at next week's Geneva meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission. It is now anxious to head off any such move by the United States.

An invitation has also been extended to Mary Robinson, the UN Human Rights Commissioner, to visit China, possibly in June.

– Teresa Poole, Peking Room to lay

THE European Commission

has proposed giving Europe's 250 million egg-laying battery hens a bit more room.

All ben bouses built after next year would have to allow each bird at least 800 square cm of cage area. The present minimum space is 450 square cm. - Reuters, Brussels

Killer sane

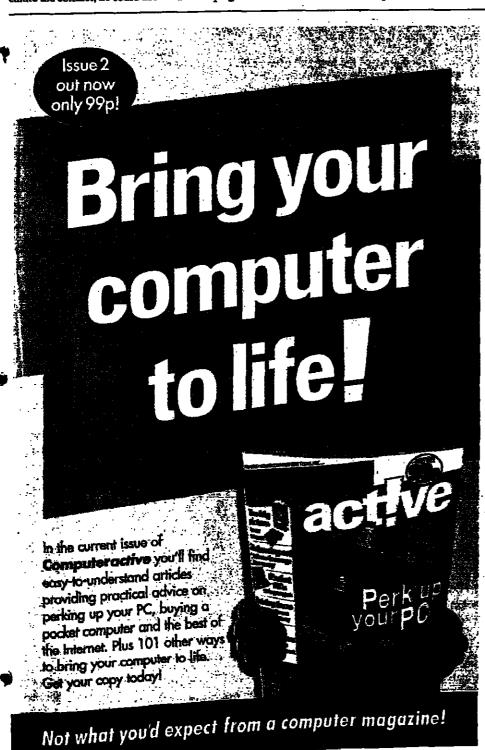
THAI police have said psychological tests have shown that a medical student who has confessed to killing his girlfriend, chopping her up and flushing the pieces down a toilet is not

Charges of premeditated murder, which carry the death penalty, would be filed against Serm Sakhonrat, 23, once evidence collection is completed. - AP, Bangkok

Weighty issue

AN Australian soldier was ordered off ceremonial duties at the recent world swimming championships because he was too "cbunky".

"In my 27 years of service, I" have never been so professionally insulted," saidRay Douglas, who was removed from poolside duties in Perth in January after defence minister lan McLachian spotted him on television. "I was informed that The



Armani angry at fashion fiasco

Phil Reeves

Baroness Thatcher is a mystery,

given their loathing for their own

Mikhail Gorbachev. "She sym-

bolised order, that's all," says my

Russian colleague, Lena. The

survey was, however, compiled

before Russians found out about

her plans to host a dinner for

Aslan Maskhadov, the President

of Chechnya, who - much to

the irritation of some here - is

visiting Britain this week.

PARIS (AP) - Giorgio Armani yesterday accused French officials of cancelling his first Paris fashion show on a whim and said he planned to talk to his lawyer about how to proceed.

Officials cancelled the show on Wednesday evening, minutes before it was to take place in the Place Saint Sulpice on the Left Bank, claiming that the tent where it was to be held did not meet safety standards. Riot police had to be deployed when an angry crowd of about 1,000 invited guests protested noisily. against the closure.

In an interview yesterday, Armani said he was disappointed and bewildered: "They cancelled the show without even asking us what we had done ... Things are really different now from how they were 20, 30 years ago. France and Italy aren't so far apart anymore," the Italian designer said. Armani added that while his

goal was to resume work on his collection, he planned to consult his lawyer about the best course of action. "We spent a lot of money on this show and never saw the results. That is a problem." He did not say how much money, but there were reports that it cost up to \$1m (£625,000).

At the show, Armani had intended to celebrate the August launch of a new perfinne, "Emporio Armani", and the opening of his new shop just blocks away from Saint Sulpice.



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Still fighting for her place

Despite moves to open up exclusive men's clubs to women, the battles that really count are yet to be won, argues Joan Smith, author of 'Misogynies'

GREAT NEWS for women she claimed, after the chief ex- entrenched than in society in actly the same goals and can who spend a lot of time in cen- ecutive, Tim Lamb, told her she tral London, have £13 a week could not be considered for proto spare, and enjoy hanging out motion if she had children. with elderly Tory MPs - the Some time after the termina-Carlton Club has voted to ad- tion, when she was suffering mit women. Another bastion of from depression, she was told male chauvinism has fallen, she was being dismissed and offurther evidence that women fered £1,000 to be "a good are winning the battle for equal girl". Mr Lamb is now denying rights - or are they? The result the allegations. of the ballot was announced on Wednesday, the same day that of the ECB as an organisation an industrial tribunal hearing in where misogyny was rife, with London accepted that a 32-yearold woman was pressured into larly making "crude and having an abortion by her em- derogatory remarks about ployers, the England and Wales

Cricket Board. did not put in a defence, is a to as lesbians and dykes". Her much greater landmark for case, which follows last month's women than the vote by Carl- decision by members of the ton Club members. The tribunal MCC not to admit women, ruled that Theresa Harrild was provides a startling insight into a victim of sex discrimination, an anachronistic area of the unanimously accepting her ac-sporting world in which women count of events as "truthful". Ms are routinely regarded as dif-Harrild told the tribunal that, ferent - and sends a powerful when she became pregnant by message that such attitudes will one of her colleagues at the no longer be tolerated. ECB, she was pressured into having an abortion. The ECB cial case, in which discriminapaid for the operation in cash, tion appears to be more deeply

Ms Harrild painted a picture

senior members of staff reguwomen". Members of the England women's cricket team, she The case, to which the ECB said, "were continually referred

While cricket may be a spe-

general, the conduct of the ECB is a salutary reminder of Harrild had no idea, when she took a job there in June 1996,

of the kind of organisation she would be working for. She enioved her £14,000-a-year post until she became aware of what she called the "sexist atmosphere" - a phrase which, in feminism, has a distinctly dated ring to it. It's easy to imagine, when we

women in the House of Commons, that the big battles have been won. The crusading lan- of traditional feminism. guage of two or three decades such as The Female Eunuch, sounds strident and confrontational to young women who Britain had its first woman prime minister.

"Feminism is about equaliless." Natasba Walter argues in her book, The New Feminism. This would be fine in a world where men and women have ex-

work together.

But the truth is that we inwhat women are up against. Ms habit a culture where a woman's place, her right to be treated on equal terms, cannot be taken for granted - and is not even universally viewed as desirable.

This week's supposedly historic vote of the Carlton Club has yet to be ratified by its general committee - and two out these days of upbeat, can-do of five members voted against admitting women. For Theresa Harrild, plunged into a milieu where female employees are not look at the record number of valued as much as their male colleagues and pregnancy an inconvenience, it is the language

"On one occasion I heard ago, the call to arms in books one male member of staff say that a female staff member needed her legs prised open with a cricket bat," she said. grew up in a decade when That such remarks could be made openly in the 1990s, in the hearing of women employees, demonstrates that the demand ty for women, nothing more nor for equality in jobs, wages, childcare - the clarion call of the New Feminism - is not enough. The reason we don't yet have those things, or have achieved the late 1960s - and the injus-

a matter of outdated working remedied. practices. If that were the case, all women would need to do is point out instances of unfairness - as we have, vociferously, since

This is not how the world operates. The awkward reality, which some of the New Feminists have yet to experience for years, has not maintained its ban

them only partially, is not just tice would immediately be loathing of women which has led to our systematic exclusion from certain types of organisations. The Carlton Club, which has kept women out for 166

The City trading floors, like many other workplaces, have admitted women, but one individua) can face a daily struggle confronting the prejudices of men Photograph: Kevin Lamarque/Reuters

quelli

an oversight. Nor has the Garrick. The unstated mison d'emof these men-only establishments is to provide members with a space they don't have to share with women - except in the capacity of waitresses.

Of course this isn't true of all men. From the beginning, men like William Godwin and John Stuart Mill were outspoken advocates of women's rights. But a generation of young women has grown up, protected from the unpleasant fact of misogyny, largely as a result of the struggles of women who are now in their 50s and 60s. These days, woman-hating tends to be subterranean, concealing itself in pockets, but that doesn't mean it no longer exists. It isn't much comfort to Theresa Harrild, driven to a nervous breakdown by attitudes which are supposed to have died out. to suggest that her case has done other women a service. But it serves as a vivid reminder of why we are excluded from some areas of life - of the fact that misogyny, even if it has gone underground, is as virulent and de-



The Cariton Club: opening its doors to women Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

INDEPENDENT

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The kind of attitude and the kind of man

IT DID NOT take long for the rulers of English cricket to be back in the news for all the wrong reasons.

Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, the man who had appeared as the regretful voice of progress and reason following the MCC's failure to admit women members, is not averse, it seems, to calling female cricketers "dykes" who should only be put on the board to get more lottery money.

The same Mr Lamb, an industrial tribunal was told, had been part of a group of ECB officials who had bullied Theresa Harrild into having an abortion after s had an affair with an executive.

In the public opprobrium that followed the MCC's decision to keep their club free of women, the ECB stated this was simply a hitch on the way to equality. Mr Lamb appeared for photo opportunities with his cricketing daughter and declared: "What is important now is for people to realise that the ECB is fully committed to the role of women in cricket and is doing everything possible to encourage them to participate from school age onwards."

All that however sounds rather cynical when juxtaposed with the evidence given to the tribunal which ruled that Miss Harrild had been the victim of sexual discrimination. The chairman stated: "The tribunal is unanimous in finding Miss Harrild's evidence was truthful." Yesterday



Tim Lamb on a PR shoot with his daughter Sophie; right, Theresa Harrild

had not been effective in discarding stereotypes about the sport being steeped ideas of the old boy network and in the public school. His words came as another woman nation, "malicious" behaviour by male staff and being sent pornographic e-mail.

"Revolution? I'm not a fan. Revolution of- ly in the field of sex discrimination.

Mr Lamb issued a statement denying her ten leads to counter-revolution." But he did allegations, but admitted the organisation go on to say "fundamental structural changes are needed", and that more had to be done to encourage the sport at all levels, and among women.

Mr Lamb (Shrewsbury and Queen's employee at Lord's alleged sex discrimi- College, Oxford), had been a mediocre player with Middlesex. He is said to have a good grasp of the nuts and bolts of the Mr Lamb's views on reform have been game, and of counties problems. This does rather ambivalent. One of his first public not say cricket writers, qualify him to carutterances as the boss went something like: ry out root-and-branch reforms, especial-



Photographs: Richard Watt, Karl Prouse

Publicly, Mr Lamb and the ECB have maintained a policy of encouraging private clubs to allow women, and they want to amalgamate with The Women's Cricket Association. The Women's Cricket Association has backed the Lord's hierarchy in the dispute with Ms Harrild. However, the allegations made at the tribunal will not go away and do nothing to restore confidence in Mr Lamb or the cricket hierardy. One senior MCC member, who voted for women, said: "We needed this like we needed a hole in the head."

Kim Sengupta

An interminable talkfest

An estimated 25 million words have been given in evidence to the hearings into Terminal 5, Britain's longest running inquiry. Randeep Ramesh adds up the cost

THE INVESTIGATION into it Britain's longest running tants, town hall officials, plan- Last week, in a private meeting Heathrow Airport's proposed fifth terminal hit its 400th day of hearings yesterday - making

public inquiry - and the most

An army of lawyers, consul-

ners, noise pollution experts and local residents have been giving evidence to the inquiry, which has now been running for 60 days more than the previous record-holder - that into the construction of the Sizewell B TO MARK day 400 of the innuclear reactor. That investigation gave the all-clear, and the plant opened in 1995.

By the time the T5 inquiry ends, it will have cost around £100m. The investigation, which started on 16 May, 1995, was originally meant to last 18 months, but inquiry inspector Roy Vandermeer QC is exend of this year, with his report not due until after 2000.

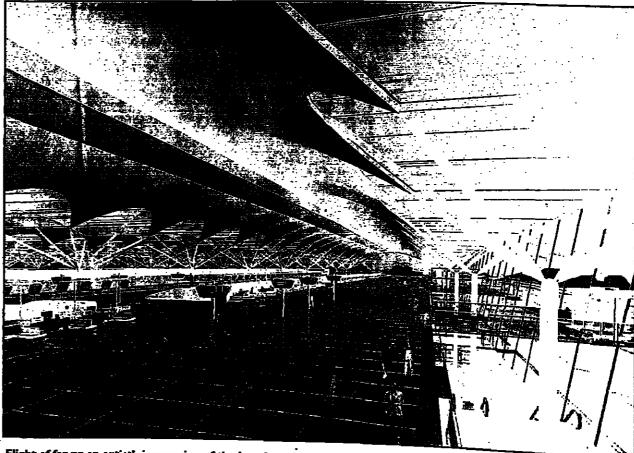
The flight of fancy that is Terminal 5 was devised by Heathrow's owner, the British estimates reckon the inquiry has Airports Authority. The com- cost the central Government pany can only start work on the £8m and local government £7m. £1.8bn project - designed to in- BAA has already spent £41m. crease Heathrow's capacity to 3) The airport operator may be 80 million passengers a year -after ministers give the termi-

nal the go-ahead. But the real result of the hearings may be the ditching of 4) More than 650 people have

with Labour MPs, environment minister Richard Caborn singled out the T5 inquiry as an example of the urgent need for reform of the planning laws.

quiry, here are 10 things you didn't know about the T5 farce. 1) The biggest winner since the inquiry started is the Ramada Hotel - a four-star establishment on the edge of Heathrow, where the inquiry is being held. The biggest losers have been its guests - the hotel's swimming pool has been converted into a pected to hold hearings until the hall and about 50 bedrooms are in use as offices.

2) Some of the barristers involved are being paid an estimated £2,000 a day. Latest ruing the day it dreamt up the new terminal. The company says it is set to cost it £200m by the time a decision is made. the public inquiry system itself. given evidence to Roy Vander-



Flight of fancy: an artist's impression of the interior of the proposed Terminal 5 for Heathrow

meer, spouting an estimated 25 5) The inquiry is nothing if not thorough. More than 50,000 the witnesses appearing. At taken. least 4,000 documents have

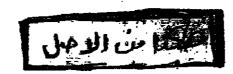
6) BAA's photocopier in the Ramada hotel is, according to its manufacturer, the second most used in the country-with 8) BAA say 27,000 people questions have been asked of more than one million copies

> 7) The inquiry into London's new terminal has seen inspec-

support the new terminal. The development's opponents say about the same number of peo-

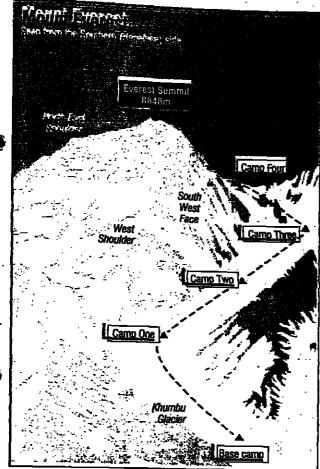
tors take trips to Amsterdam.
Paris, Frankfurt, Chicago and

9) Mr Vandermeer is helped by nine planning inspectors. So many have been recruited, minister Richard Caborn explained recently, "in case some of them die before it's over". 10) Terminal 5 won't be ready until at least 2005.



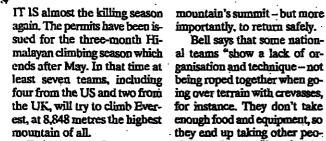
been handed in.

A queue is the height of madness



Two years ago the crowding on the narrowest part of the approach to Everest's summit caused fatal delays. Charles Arthur asks whether

this year could see a similar tragedy



summit is a dangerous business. succeeding. But that's not because the risk of avalanches (responsible for 50 or so deaths) or medical conditions such as fluid build-up caused by altitude have risen. If anything, bottled oxygen, modern drugs and familiarity with the terrain have reduced those dangers.

Paradoxically, expedition leaders now realise that one of the biggest obstacles to reaching the summit and returning safely is other climbers, either on guided expeditions or from "national" teams, climbing for their country's glory.

In fact the latter may be the most dangerous. The antics in recent years of teams from India, South Africa and Taiwan have all severely worried the more experienced leaders of paid-for, guided expeditions. The greatest incompetence I have seen on mountains is national teams without guides," says Steve Bell, head of Himalayan Kingdom, an expedition company from Sheffield. This year he and two guides will take seven clients (each paying £25,000) to try to reach the

importantly, to return safely. Bell says that some nation-

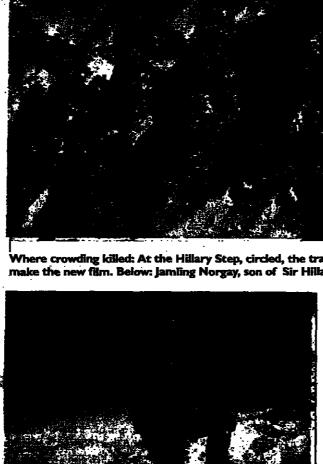
teams "show a lack of orbeing roped together when going over terrain with crevasse for instance. They don't take enough food and equipment, so they end up taking other peo-Trying to reach Everest's ple's And they will go for the summit when the conditions or While more than 700 people timing aren't right. There are have succeeded, 153 have died strangles of national trying, or trying to return after teams being driven by some mad, patriotic fervour - as if lives are expendable as long as they get some people to the

> This year attempts on the summit will be made by an Indian team and a Singaporean team - making their first attempt. Is Bell worried? "Only that they might get in the way, or might need to be rescued because that has to come first above anything else," he says.

But the sheer volume of people on Everest can be deadly, simply because there isn't room enough for everyone when the mountain shows its vicious side. That was graphically demonstrated two years ago when a traffic jam on the highest mountain led to the deaths of expert and amateur climbers

Key to this tale is a 20-metre stretch of steep rock and ice called the Hillary Step, on the mountain's south-east ridge the most popular route to the summit - 8,790 metres above sea level and only 58 metres lower than the top.

The Step (named after Sir



ice climbing: "a fair cow", as Hillary described it, "overhanging a little drop of 10,000

But it's the only way up. Normally it is ascended by hauling oneself up on ropes. Two years ago however the ropes had blown away, and a queue built up as people waited for Anatoly Boukreev, a Russian mountaineering guide, to climb the Step and fix a rope at its top. Then all that would remain. would be a determined plod upwards for another 50 metres

But even for a talented climber like Boukreev, climbing the Step and fixing the rope took more than an hour. In that time, a queue of about 30 climbers - mainly members of guided expeditions paying thousands of dollars to reach the summit – built up.

Only one person can go up or come down at a time. Hauling oneself up the ropes takes time. Descent is a cautious procedure, not a free-ranging slide. All the time, the climber feels cold, and unbelievably exhausted, with a crushing headache. "The closest thing to drowning," is how Ed Vies-

turs, who climbed the ridge a few days later, described it. Sit down, and you might never find the determination to stand

> The traffic jam made everyone's schedules slip, and Everest above 8,000 metres is no place to dawdle. Every minute, your body is literally dying, because there is not enough oxygen to support life. But that day people reached the summit and descended to the top of the Step only to find people below wait-

ing to come up.

Meanwhile the weather worsened in the valley below. Within hours it was blowing subzero air at 100mph over the

climbers, now hours behind a timetable that would let them reach the top and return below 8.000 metres.

Night fell, and in the ensuing chaos, seven people died, including Rob Hall, leader of one of the guided expeditions. A few days later a team making a film for the widescreen Imax format - now just opened in London's Trocadero and the National Museum of Film and Photography, Bradford - came across his frozen, lifeless body not far below the Step. Bringing it back was not an option. At that altitude it is all you can do to lift your feet, let alone a

book Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer, one of Hall's clients. What's clear is that both Hall and the other guided expedition. led by Scott Fischer, should have turned their clients back long before the summit - perhaps even at the base of the Step,

The episode has been dis-

sected repeatedly, notably by the

where the Taiwanese team, though many hours too late to make a sensible attempt on the summit before nightfall, was waiting to go up. Bell has been there - he

helped guide a group up Everest in 1993 - and knows the pitfalls. "We have always stuck strongly to having a time when

clients. It's a trade-off because you want to maximise their chance at the summit. But the priority is safety." To the Imax cinemagoer.

and often to the chagrin of

languidly eating popcorn in a warm, sea-level theatre, the view from the roof of the world may look tolerably interesting. Will that lead to more people trying to get there? "I don't think it will discourage them," admits Jamling Norgay, son of Tenzing Norgay, the Sherpa who made the first ascent with Hillary. "It might even encourage them." That could be the most frightening fact of all.



make the new film. Below: Jamling Norgay, son of Sir Hillary's companion "Sherpa Tenzing" on the expedition, and, centre, the team in a storm





(160 ft) to the summit. Edmund Hillary, who surmounted it on the way to the first ascent in 1953) is a steep, challenging section of rock and

Got a problem, Fruity? I'm beginning a new life



JOHN LYTTLE

Gives a man's response to Chris Evans pledging to go gay for a year

WOKE UP vesterday morning and found that overnight I had become a 100 per cent lies like moths to a flame. Splash on litre about this fabulous bird he's shagged I feel red blooded raging heterosexual. Immediately kick Andrew out of bed, shouting he's a filthy bum boy and insisting I didn't know where I was and anyway I had been drunk last night. Andrew rolls eyes, said it was way too early to be talking dirty and besides I don't drink and we didn't do anything last night. Details, details, Demanded he step outside. Andrew sighs. "This is one of your straight days, isn't it?" "That's right fruity. Got a problem with that?" Andrew says yes, he does have a problem with that but experience was a great teacher, so he was simply going to pop a Prozac and alert the media. Ignore him. Scratch my arse and sniff my socks to see if there was another day's wear in them. Andrew snaps, "That's attractive"

and stomps out. Went to bathroom. Dropped the kids off at the pool. Refused to flush because I'm a real man. Flung wet towels on floor. Don't bother cleansing, toning, moisturising or back combing either as chicks don't care if a guy has a face like Freddy Krueger. Look at Bryan Adams. Skin so bumpy Stevie Wonder once tried to read it. Decide to skip shower, shampoo and it. Declar to and let my musky, mas-deodorant too and let my musky, mas-

culine pheromones draw the drooling dol- weedy little drip from Business boasts of Old Spice as a chaser.

Can of Kestrel for breakfast. Buy the soaraway Sun. Sit on Tube with legs spread wide apart. Run my eyes over Page 3 for the first time. Nudge person next to me: "Cor! Look at the tits on that!" Old lady gives me startled look, moves to another seat.

Arrive at work. Slap cute security guard on the back instead of the butt. Get into lift. Wait till it's full before breaking wind violently.

Office. Log on. Down to work. Send E-mail to lesbian columnist telling her she's a frustrated old biddy who needs a good sorting out by a man who knows what a woman wants. I'm a riot I am.

Hang out with the gang in M&S shirts, polyester ties and stay-press trousers. Want to be accepted, so stand about with hand jammed hand in pocket and jiggle testicles. Bite back compulsion to talk about Madonna's new video. (You know, the one where Maddie can't get out of the duvet cover she's wearing because there's a hurricane blowing and she keeps turning into a wolf.) Close eyes and picture Oliver Reed vomiting up the contents of

no need to enquire if it was a vulture, baldheaded eagle or gannet. Talk at the top At least that's what the Arts secretary of my voice about football instead, never allowing anyone else to finish a sentence.

No need to bother with the gym. Girls are gagging for a big gut and a generous portion of builder's cleavage

Pepper conservation with "The ref must have been blind" and "It's a game of two halves" until one guy says he can't pretend any more, bursts into tears and sobs that his father died last night. Long, uncomfortable silence until I ask if that meant. he hadn't been able to catch the match.

Damn right he had: "We was robbed." Make unusual discovery. If you're a het-

dubbed "men's talk". Another discovery. What heterosexual men call banter, heterosexual women call sexual harassment. screamed when I asked if she was wearing tights or stockings. Must be one of ose humourless lesbian feminists giving her dungarees the day off.

Decide that being straight I don't need to bother with the gym. Girls are gagging for a big gut and a generous portion of builder's cleavage. Well, the skinny ones you think you're hard enough." Finish are. Those fat cows who've let themselves go just whine about the so-called double standard, This is ignorance. Richard Littlejohn says scientific research proves that the male heterosexual body automatically converts lard into beefcake, The fact that he must be suffering from a testosterone deficiency doesn't undermine his case. Anyhow, skip herb salad for lunch in favour of greasy, artery-clogging fry-up. A man's gotta eat what a man's gotta eat. Hormone-pumped red meat, not battered cod-pieces.

Use loo. Remember to slouch at the uriing ahead at the imaginary red dot on the wall. Then notice my buddies are surreptitiously checking each other's equipment. Another thing heterosexual men it is getting back to normal."

obviously don't talk about.

Receive E-mail back from lesbian columnist asking for "the name of the man mentioned in my earlier communication". Bitch. Spend rest of day picking my nose and flicking the contents randomly around the room. The Alpha-male marks

Pub crawl with the lads. Select Oasis instead of Abba on the jukebox. Get pissed, pick fight with bollard: "C'mon, if evening with "Babe Magnet" and deeppan pizza and six-pack, singing "Achy Breaky Heart". Observe how heterosexual men infinitely prefer each other's company much more than the company of women, who are either a) slags b) saints or c) that Louise who used to be in Eter-

Ring for taxi the moment Babe Magnet throws his arms around me and slurs that he loves me, I'm his best mate. Get home, fall into bed, throw my arms around Andrew, slur that I love him, he's my best mate. Andrew says I'm not touchnal, looking neither left or right but star- ing him until I have a bubble bath, a face pack and aci gentle. Protest that this is hardly butch. Andrew fold his arms and purses his lips: "Possibly not Gazza, but

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The long shadow of Hassan

THERE IS a country bordering on the European Union which was founded as a modern, secular, democratic and above all European state. It saw its destiny so much as part of our continent that it abandoned its ancient script and now uses our Roman alphabet. And yet Turkey will not be let into the club. Enlargement of the European Union is one of the priorities of Britain's presidency, but Turkey is neither among the five next joiners. nor among the five next-but-ones, all of whose representatives assembled for talks in London yesterday.

So why is Turkey different from Estonia, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania? The first, and very important, answer is human rights. Despite its aspirations, and despite the very recent democratic credentials of the convoy of countries which has jumped the queue ahead of it, Turkey's politi-cal system still fails to qualify. Istanbul's politicians are not fully insulated from the military and there have been abuses of human rights, especially those of ethnic minorities such as the Kurds.

But this is not the whole story, and it is worth pursuing further the reluctance to admit Turkey even into the EU's waiting room. For many, "not yet" is code for "never", and the issue of human rights usefully postpones facing up to other reasons. Even if Turkey's democracy were above reproach, it would be argued that Turkey is "not in Europe" or that it does not share our "common culture". But ever since the goddess Europa fled from Phoenicia to Greece, the boundaries of Europe have been fluctuating and ambiguous and its cultural identity likewise.

What, then, is the real difference? It is that Turkey is a Muslim country. Ever since the giant Hassan stormed the wall of Constantinople at the head of a wave of Janissaries in 1453, ending a thousand years of the Christian Roman Empire of Byzantium, his shadow has fallen across the continent. Up to the walls of Vienna and back, modern Europe's identity was forged in opposition to Turkish Islam. The spectre of the beathen at the gate even featured in British domestic politics as recently as Gladstone's Midlothian campaign, fought on the demand that the Ottomans be eject-

ed from Europe "bag and baggage". So is the enlarged European Union simply a neo-Christendom, an ethnic and cultural entity based on Christianity and Caucasian genes? (Never mind that the Caucasus mountains which gave their name to a racial type are to the north and east of Turkey.) It cannot be, and it is as well to spell out why not. John Laughland's book The Tainted Source last year argued that the ideology underlying the European Union is corrupted by German supremacism in a pan-European guise. He claimed that Paul-Henri Spaak, a Belgian founding father of the European Community, was a coliaborationist and former intellectual admirer of Hitler, and that Jacques Delors was a disciple of a crypto-Nazi in the 1930s.

This is nonsense, given the EU's high and democratic principles. But it should force us to ask: is there such a thing as a European identity, and does the EU exist to give expression to it? Because there is a radical openendedness about the Union which is unsettling. There is the internal openendedness of the integration process, enshrined in the phrase "ever-closer union" in the Treaty of Rome. It was precisely to counter this endless ambition that moderate Euro-sceptics, including our present Foreign Secretary, have championed the cause of an ever-wider union. This is the external open-endedness which yesterday saw the future eastern boundary of the Union pushed to the Black Sea and the steppes. But, as a permanent condition of the EU, this process of expansion is just as disorienting as a process of permanent unification. Why stop at the Urals or the Bosphorus?

Well, it has to stop somewhere, or the EU would simply be a free-tr and single-currency zone for advanced, liberal and democratic countries, regardless of cultural identity or geographical location. But Europe, as the region bordering on the Mediterranean, has a much longer history than the land-mass of north and west Europe. It is a history divided by religion, but it is a division (like the division of Europe by communism) which the EU could overcome.

That is why we should wrestle with the shadow of Hassan. Bosnian Muslims certainly feel strongly that Europe's Christian heritage ensured that they were left to their fate, and there is much truth in that. Bosnia could have been a model for a secular, tolerant and liberal state in which Christians and Muslims lived together. If Turkey could follow that model, then it should certainly be a candidate for European Union membership.

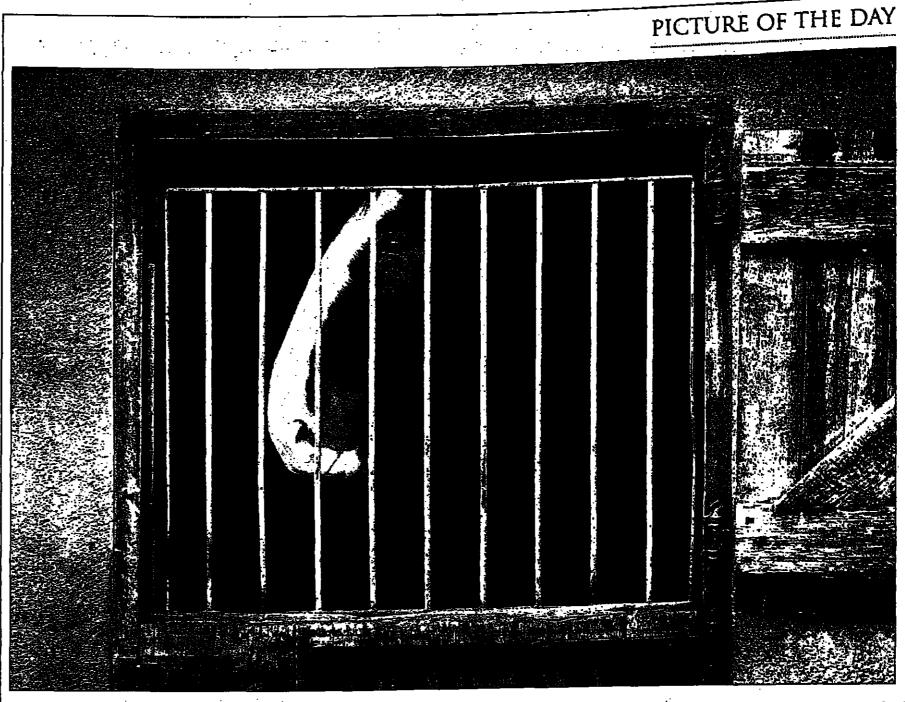
Trying to tie part of the Islamic world to western liberal democracy is not a strategy that has worked with Egypt, the greatest recipient of American aid after Israel. But the chances of success are much greater with Turkey. and the prize is great. Perhaps it will have to wait until Islamic agnosticism emerges as a dominant religion of Turkey, as Christian doubt has elsewhere, but it is important to offer the Turks a genuine chance to prove their liberal democratic credentials.

Blair's loyalty contest

LABOUR'S internal elections for its National Executive have long been derided as a beauty contest, but now the spin consultants of Millbank Tower want to turn it into the real thing. Tony Blair's reforms, designed to neuter the party's ruling body - sorry, ensure a constructive and supportive relationship with the Government - will kick MPs off the section elected by hallot of the entire membership.

This will stop Tony Benn's avatar using it as a power base, but might let in a fifth column of Hattersleyites (as Trotskyists are known these days) among the unknowns on the ballot paper.

So, out goes to the call to loyal Blairite actors and pop stars on the membership list to put their names forward. But Mr Blair should beware. Last year's heroes of New Britannia have cooled already, with Damon Albarn, Jarvis Cocker and Alan McGee all taking shots at Labour policy. Someone should tell the Prime Minister that dissent is like putty: if you press it down at the top it squeezes out somewhere else.



Shy shire: Lingwood Majestic, a bay shire gelding 18.1 hands high, in his stall at Pilgrims Hatch, Essex, before leaving for the world's largest shire horse show at the Photograph: Brian Harris. A 9x12 print of this photograph can be ordered on 0171-293 2534 East of England showground this weekend

Duped by China

DESPITE the fact that Chinese suppression of political dissent in regions such as Tibet and Xinjiang is increasing year on year, the .lovernment assures us that, rather than backing UN condemnation of such oppression, it is only "constructive engagement" with the People's Republic that will ensure political change.

Most human rights organisations agree that such political appeasement whether the retention of Most Favoured Nation trading status or the uncoupling of trade from human ights - has a direct and immediate influence on the political climate in

China – for the worse. Our increasing economic inlyement in China has given the Communist Party there a large stick with which to beat us, simply because Britain needs China's emerging markets and cheap labour more than China needs Britain's trade. China, not the West, has the upper hand in such "engagement".

As the recent row over Chris Patten's book has demonstrated, it is not China's political climate that is being changed by "constructive engagement", it is ours. We seem increasingly willing to give up our own human-rights principles and restrict our own democratic freedoms, in order to secure an economic foothold in the Middle Kingdom. The Labour Party's political naivety and weakness on this issue is lamentable. The Chinese government must be laughing at us, all the way to the bank.

Dr MARTIN A MILLS. School of African and Asian Studies University of Sussex

COLÍN BROWN ("Murdoch monopoly inquiry demanded", 9 March) quotes my statement, which I admit was maccurate, that Rupert Murdoch and commentators could help to cal and safety considerations, not gave orders to the Times correspondent in Peking, James Pringle, to write a favourable piece about Shanghai in *The Sun*. Mr Pringle assures me that no such suggestion or order was given and that the request to write a piece for The Sun was a coincidence. JONATHAN MIRSKY

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

End of duty-free

IT WAS ministers of European Union governments who unanimously proposed scrapping duty-free sales within the EU in 1991, just before the completion of the Single Market ("Pressure grows for U-turn on duty-free," 10 March). The European Commission does not

Dire warnings of chaos on ferries most narrow arguments yet put forward by those trying to get the decision reversed. They should be answering the question of why air and ferry passengers, particularly regular ones, should continue to benefit from what amounts to an unfair tax

advantage. By the time duty-free sales end in June next year, the industry will have had nearly eight years to prepare for the changes. If, after all that time, we are still being confronted with doomsday scenarios of huge job losses and bankruptcies, one has to ask where the responsibility for that

GEOFFREY MARTIN Head of the Representation in the United Kingdom The European Commission London SW1

Women and computers

IT IS a risky generalisation to suggest women have different priorities from men. However, I believe information technology companies ments involves considerable logistichange women's attitudes to IT (Network, 10 March) by stressing two important facts.

First, that IT (in the form of email) provides by far the most costeffective way of keeping in touch. Almost none of the female friends to whom I've described the benefits of the Internet realised initially that

second at local call rates and hence and the operating railway over the that the incremental cost of each, once the subscription is paid, is virtually til. This point is rarely stressed. in service providers' ads.

Second, IT is set to have an extraordinary impact on our children's education. The instant availability of unlimited factual knowledge via IT tal of £2.58bn to 2007. will increasingly mean we must convote legislation into effect in the EU. centrate on teaching children how rather than what to learn. Inevitably, this will have a huge impact both on the role of teachers and the contribution parents can make.

> Finally, computers, which do tend to be seen as a male preserve, have revived the art of correspondence for men. I, at least, have written scarcely one personal letter over the nast 20 years. Yet since Christmas I've been in regular contact by e-mail with about six male friends to whom I'd previously sent nothing more than a "let's keep in touch" at the foot of an annual Christmas card. DAVID ROBERTSON' Technology Response Ltd.

West Malvern, Worcestershire

A safer railway

THE Health and Safety Executive's Railway Inspectorate is right to spotlight areas of the UK railway where maintenance may be in doubt or the scale of deterioration may warrant track renewal ("Railtrack warned of safety prosecutions", 3 March).

However, the management of maintenance, renewal and investleast the management of "possessions", whereby track is made available for work and handed back for service at agreed intervals. The need is to minimise the disruption of operations. The chief consideration is safety but operational issues are not far behind.

The public needs to understand messages were sent in fractions of a that under-investment in the network London NW3

Selling a house

IF THE excellent scheme of legally binding bids which obtains in Norway (letter, 12 March) is to work in England and Wales, it first requires a complete change in the attitude of house buyers and sellers.

I know of nowhere else worldwide where a house purchaser expects a seller to wait whilst the purchaser sells his own house. This is the real cause for delay. In Norway, and indeed elsewhere, a purchaser is bound by his offer and has to seek under way. Some £260m was combridging finance. Completion can 🍝 then take place within weeks and the purchaser must assess the risk he runs of having two properties on his EWS on freight stock; by Railtrack hands.

for investment in stations, permanent CHRIS CHARLES

JOHN A DAVIS'S letter (10 March) reminded me of an argument I had with an estate agent. Apropos advertising budgets and advance fees, he said "All I want is my downside coveтed . . . "

In the real world of trade and commerce, to which he was obviously a complete stranger, no one has their "downside covered". In the hotel business, for instance, we have to maintain a building with comfortable beds in it and food ready to feed guests. We have to advertise our services in order to obtain those guests. Can you imagine what the estate. agent's reaction would have been had I included on his bill an extra fiver "for advertising"? SBARRACLOUGH

hard and Just

Keswick,

Don't knock it

DAVID HOWARTH

Clare College,

Cambridge

YOU REPORT (11 March) that "knocking" adverts directed against the tobacco companies prove effective in stopping people smoking. If this is so, why do illegal drugs sell so well? After all, drug barons don't get much good press. JOHN LAWRENCE

last 10 to 15 years cannot be reversed

overnight. Already we are witness-

ing the largest scales of investment

ever seen. Investment announced by

Railtrack some time ago is already

mitted over the last 12 months, a to-

Announcements by Virgin for West

Coast and Cross Country stock; by

way, signalling and new train control

systems are just the headlines. Train

operators, suppliers and contractors

are also investing in technology, ca-

pacity, human capital and new man-

agement systems. The full effects of

these announcements will not be vis-

icism, but he is pushing an open door.

Managing Director, The QSS Group

WHEN elections by proportional

representation lead to bargaining

among political parties, British com-

mentators are often quick to make

remarks about "instability" and

"horse-trading" Can we look for-

ward to similar comments about the

inability of first-past-the-post to

bring stable government to India?

The inspector is right to raise crit-

ible for a few years.

Voting reform

MICHAEL G WINWOOD

Diversification

COMMERCIAL incongruity is rife. Sainsbury's is a bank. Boots is a sandwich bar, and God knows what those pop-record people Virgin aren't into. But can anybody beat this flyer that came through my letter box today: "Thames Water customers can now get cheaper gas from London Electricity." I feel faint DAVID GIBBS

London SW4

At last, the tobacco industry admits the link it has always denied



KINGTON

I LEARN from inside sources that in the course of the next year the tobacco industry has decided to come clean.

Yes, the tobacco industry has finally agreed to admit something that it has never admitted before.

It has finally agreed to admit that there is a link - let me spell this out clearly - that there is a DEFINITE PROVEN LINK be-

tween tobacco and smoking.
"For years the tobacco industry has denied that there is any link between cigarettes and smoking," says Adrian Wardour-Street, the PR man who is spearheading the campaign to admit the link without seeming to do so. "And we were quite right so to refuse! Oh, yes, there was plenty of anecdotal evidence to link tobacco and smoking, but we could never find the ultimate proof, the unshakeable, 100 per cent evidence that there was a direct link between tobacco and

But surely there could never be any doubt, could there? Why else would people buy tobacco in the shape of cigarettes except to smoke it?

"For hundreds of reasons," says Adrian. To look glamorous. To offer to other people. To barter at the end of World War Two. To throw to people in Third World countries. To use as stakes in friendly card games. To leave them as tips. To imitate Humphrey Bogart. To put behind your ear..."

OK, OK. And then to smoke? "To smoke? We never had any idea that people were smoking the cigarettes as well." says Adrian, looking shocked. "I mean, we were just selling the cigarettes in a box to the public. What they did with them thereafter was up to them. We certainly never recommended that they be smoked. If you look at a packet of cigarettes of any era, you will not find any instructions for smoking on the side. I mean, when did you ever

buy a packet of cigarettes where it said on to support all this arts and sports sponthe side, Instructions for smoking - Withdraw First Cigarette From Pack, Put In Mouth, Light Far End'?"

What he said was true. I do not think I have ever seen a packet of cigarettes which told you how to smoke them.

"Exactly. So it came as a complete shock to us when people accused us of having a link with smoking. We had no idea that our cigarettes were being used for smoking!" But if the tobacco industry wasn't

geared to smoking, what on earth WAS it geared to? . "The tobacco industry? Oh, my good-

ness, the tobacco industry has always had its hands full with things like sports sponsorship, snooker, cricket, arts sponsorship, theatre, and so on, which is a pretty fulltime thing, without getting into things like

"Oh, from the sale of cigarettes."

For smoking? "Certainly not! Even now, the tobacco

industry finds it hard to believe that anyone would be so foolish as to smoke cigarettes. Before smoking, cigarettes are clean, rolled up portions of tobacco in pristine bits of paper. That's how we sell them. But if you smoke them, they are smelly, they are dirty, they are hot, they are dangerous, and they cause cancer. We recommend that people do not smoke cigarettes."

So you admit the link with cancer? "Ob, yes," says Adrian Wardour-Street cheerfully, "we've always admitted that. It's the link with smoking we find so hard to accept. Anyway, I don't see why the tobacco industry should come in for such hard knocks. Nobody ever sues car manufac-And where did the money come from turers for causing death, even though

there is a proven link between cars and being run over."

So the tobacco industry finds nothing in its history to be ashamed of?

"Nothing, nothing at all. Except..." bere Adrian Wardour-Street lowers his voice, "except I think maybe we were unwise all those years ago to take over the tobacco plant from the Red Indian. We did it in good faith. We assumed that because the indigenous American was using tolyacur. it was all right. We may have made a mistake. And if we received no warning from the original users, we must take action."

You mean ... ? "Yes. It is about time the tobacco industry sued the descendants of the indigenous American natives! They never warned us of the dangers of tobacco! This could be the biggest tobacco lawsuit of all time." So there you have it. The tobacco in-

dustry is innocent after all.

Scottish tremors should act as an early warning for Blair



MACINTYRE

OF THE MANY things Tony Blair has to worry about, a challenge from political parties on the left of Labour isn't one. This wasn't true of his four predecessors as Labour Prime Ministers. The Communist Party way not have had much electoral success for most of this century, but well into the early Eighties it punched heavily above its weight in the unions and therefore in Labour's policy making machinery. Tightly knit groups of politically motivated hatchet-faced men - and, let's be frank, some congenial, literate, idealistic really matters. It would be deeply painful but and amusing men such as the communists Mick McGahey and Jimmy Airlie - were able to use their persuasive powers in drab smoky rooms in seaside hotels, where union delegations met to decide how to vote at Labour likely though they are - would be ugly indeed Party conferences. Now the CP has imploded. Arthur Scargill's Socialist Party is a joke, The Morning Star is on strike, All this is the envy of some of Blair's European counterparts, such as Romano Prodi and Lionel Jospin, both of whom faced direct electoral competition on the left in the elections that brought them to power. Here there is nowhere on the left to go but Labour.

In England, at least. If you wondered what UK politics might be looking like if Blair was facing Italo-French style competition on the left, it's worth examining the case of Scotland. for the unionist (in Anglo Scottish terms) Blair This week an opinion poll asked Scottish electors how they would vote in the elections next year for the Scottish Parliament. It's only one poll, but the results were alarming for Labour, which secured 39 points to the Scottish National Party's 38 per cent. Given that the elections are only 14 months away, this raises the once unthinkable spectre that the SNP might become the largest single party in the new Scottish Parliament.

There are lots of easy myths about the reasons for these results, the most exotic of which is that the whole country is up in arms at the fact that the Scottish nationalist film star Sean Connery was not made a knight, and that in the face of this provocation, the population is rapidly opting for independence. A second of short-term unpopularity; that Tuesday's and related myth asserts that Scotland is sim- budget measures - including welcome money ply a no-go area for Blairism, just as it was Those who take this latter view argue, for example, that the political culture is so different that the modernisers' ditching of tax and spend policies will never take north of the border, and that an SNP skillfully positioned by its leader Alex Salmond in old Labour economic territory is merely capitalising on that fact.

The truth is more mundane and more interesting. The Scots are not voting for independence, nor are they in love with higher taxes. Instead, disappointment that the Blair Government has not delivered more, faster, on its agenda has had a much noisier effect in Scotland, precisely because in the SNP ment may be tomorrow's English one.

disaffected Labour supporters, unlike those in England, do have somewhere else to go. Scottish grievances are not so different from those felt south of the border, if perhaps a little magnified. They concern, for example, the cuts in lone parent benefits, and the fact that much of the extra money for education trumpeted by ministers has been more than offset by budget cuts forced on local authorities by the rigid adherence to Kenneth Clarke's spending limits.

There is, however, one big difference, and that has to do with timing. Gordon Brown's most frequently uttered mantra has always been that he is not going to repeat the past errors of Labour governments which have spent first and paid later. In his Budget speech on Tuesday, the Chancellor will be able, with justifiable pride, to announce yet another improvement in the public finances. In theory, he could use, for another three years, all the savings - such as those from the departmental spending reviews - for further good housekeeping (like, say, repaying the national debt) and only start to release revenue, whether for tax cuts or additional spending, much nearer the general election, when it it could be done. But the Scottish elections matter in a way that not even next year's local elections or the European elections do. For the results of a huge SNP breakthrough - un-



administration.

Now this scenario is, to put it mildly, pretty far-fetched. But it illustrates why Scottish polities has suddenly become, or should become, rather important to the English. For it is bound to fuel an already nascent debate, not just between old and new Labour, but among modemisers about future strategy. One option, broadly, is that some more of the fruits of Brown's economic rigour - greater health and education spending and, perhaps, more redistribution through benefit increases for those for whom work is not necessarily the answer, such as poorer pensioners - should be brought forward. Another, contrasting, view is that the Govemment must not be panicked by the threat for lone parents - not to mention the still-unpact of the New Deal for the unemployed will begin to reap electoral benefits well before May 1999. That what is most needed is a more robust counter-attack on the SNP's opportunistic exploitation of the voters' impatience. That an example was set by Blair himself in Scotland last week when he reminded his critics that Labour election promises included those of not taxing and spending.

This is a debate well worth having out while there is time. It deals with how quickly the electorate are entitled to feel the Government's election promises are being redeemed. Not for the first time, today's Scottish argu-

The news on television presents its viewers with a smaller world

Human interest stories are of interest to

David Aaronovitch too. but not to the exclusion of analysis and comment

ONE by one the ancient bastions fall. Last week it was the flag on Buckingham Palace, and yesterday it became common knowledge that ITN's News At Ten really would soon be shunted back to 11pm. This change - attempted a couple of years back and frustrated by the personal intervention of John Major will apparently succeed the second time around because, as a senior ITV source said, "We will explain to the politicians why the move will make news on ITV even stronger." I look forward to such an explanation, which sounds as improbable and self-serving as a 70-yearold man's attempted seduction of a 20-year-old model on the basis of her being able to benefit from his long amatory experience.

No, the news on ITV will profit to this extent alone: at 11pm it will no longer have to worry about catering for such a large and diverse audience as the one it struggled to inform at 10; because they won't be there, as sure as eggs is eggs. The true motive is to increase audiences earlier on ITV, in particular by allowing adult programmes to be shown uninterrupted (except, of course, by tampon and pet food ads) in the post-watershed slot between 9 and 11. Mandy Pooler, managing director of the leading media buyers Mindshare, gave the game away by telling the Guardian that, We believe ITV can build audiences by moving the news. There is unilateral (sic) support for this in the industry."

So what? Who cares if they do move the bloody thing? Well, a year or so ago I thought I didn't give two hoots, but I've changed my mind. This is partly due to reading an article in this week's New Yorker in which the American writer David Remnick lamented the loss of good TV news is the US. They get ITN over there on cable channels, and Remnick observed that "To watch, say, the ITN evening news in Britain, is to get a glimpse of the greater world ... places that are nearly invisible to an American viewer. Moreover in Europe, from London to Moscow the evening news is broadcast in the evening, at 8 or 9, when rking neonle can actually wa

But the real reason for my change of heart has been the slowly growing realisation, prompted by the sight of a new government wrestling with exceptionally difficult problems, and by the paucity of intelligent coverage of the issues, of how little good journalism there is in our country, and how we do not value what there is.

When I first joined London Weekend TV's cerebral current affairs show Weekend World in 1982, ITV and BBC news and current affairs people were the pampered élite of the broadcasting organisations. They were clever, arro-



gant, noisy, well-paid and confident. do we ensure," the Review document Pleasing the audience, insofar as it as asked, "that we offer programmes which thought about at all, was clearly sec- the market alone would never make ondary to presenting what the journalists thought were important stories or (more rarely) analyses on screen. Since that time, however a long and (I believe) increasingly corrosive debate has gone on about how to make current affairs more palatable to a larger audience.

We know the drivers for this debate:

YET [BBC emphasis] also remain in touch with the broadest of audiences?"

Yes, indeed. How do you ensure that? TV at the moment is awash with documentary series: Cutting This, Modern That, Inside The Other. The best of them are witty, revealing and provocative. But they are what they are, authored hugely increased competition, a result- snapshots - and that is emphatically not

What happens when war seems imminent? Is it really good enough to leave it all to 'Newsnight' to analyse what is happening?

ing battle for ratings, pressure from ad- current affairs. They may well tell invertisers and the need for the BBC to triguing human tales, taking you inside maintain the legitimacy of the licence other peoples lives, but they do not tell fee. So, over the years a thousand con- you how much of something is hapsultancies have quizzed a zillion focus ps. In previous capacities. I was present on several occasions when the gloomy results were discussed, and the pressure was always in one direction. Viewers respected authority and balance. but what they really, really lusted after was relevance. They wanted (we were told) to see their own lives reflected in the stories. And they wanted good, gripping stories at that. Or, as the "BBC News Programme Strategy Review" reported last autumn: "They like strong evidence - clearly presented, human examples or first-hand experience." As in shows like Channel 4's Cutting Edge

pening, why it is happening, how it might the consequences of such prevention might be. That is not their job.

Meanwhile the programmes that might tell you this are being marginalised, denuded of resources and confidence, ignored or gradually forced to adopt a more popular agenda. Many have tried to ensure that they tell their stories better, more stylishly, only to discover that it has not been good enough.

BBC 1, for instance, now transmits only one current affairs show in its 7 to 10 pm prime time schedule. Called Here and Now, and scheduled opposite Corodocumentary series, apparently. "How nation Street, this week's edition dealt with the pressures of schoolboy footballers and conmen stealing family heirlooms. The flagship, Panorama, moved last year from 9.30 to 10pm and lost over 20 per cent of its audience. It now follows Pleasure Beach, yet another prime time docusoap. On ITV we can expect World In Action to disappear soon, and to be replaced by something in which - I will take a bet - "human interest" stories are to the fore.

Now, I just love human stories. I adore seeing real-life marital break-up, psychotic neighbours, sociopathic drivers, vexed chefs and harassed coppers. But what happens when - as was recently the case - war seems imminent? Was it really good enough to leave it all to Newsnight to analyse what was happening, and what the options were?

Look at this week's Radio Times for an illustration of what I mean. There were several programmes about childcare on the BBC this week. One (made by my partner, as it happens) was an examination of the quality of childcare in Britain. The others were: "Four couples tell the true story of shopping, sleeple nights and lack of sex" and "Four women in their mid-thirties (two of them high-fliers) are expecting a baby." Guess which two the Radio Times highlighted in its Choice column.

So it's time for the pendulum to swing the other way. We need a tad less lifestyle stuff, a teeny shift from the undoubted pleasures of voyeurism, a soupçon less observation, and a bit more robust, lucid, intelligent, analytical, honest, confident and well-resourced news and current affairs in our prime time TV schedules. Or do we want the world to become "nearly invisible" to the British people too?

Richard and Judy commandeer the deck of our refitted vessel



MARR

Back on board, the **Editor in Chief of** The independent, answers those niggling questions that everyone is asking

readers who hadn't noticed, I have been "resting" (in the actors' sense) for the past few weeks. Well, all right then. I was fired. Many of you wrote to me to commiserate afterwards and not a few expressed a sense of bafflement about just what was going on and why, and what might happen next.

But, while a believer in openness, I don't want to regurgitate past arguments. It would be messy, insanitary and undignified. Much more important, there was a happy ending, which is rare in journalism. So I have decided to regard my head-first plunge from Canary Wharf Tower as a minor if spectacular diversion in the middle of the Independent drama - window left accidentally open - executive foot in the wrong place - dozy editor trips over it - flails - disappears - huge amusement all round - curtain - time for an ice-cream before the next act.

The Independent, however, has a reputation for being frank with its readers so here are my answers to some, at least, of the questions that have been fired at us since the change of ownership on Wednesday.

Why have you returned? First, because I was asked to. Second, because the new owners want to take the paper in the right direction. The shorthand term for that is "up-market" but a combination of words such as intelligent, serious, authoritative and literate gives a more accurate sense of what we mean by that. We don't mean turgid or Whitehall-obsessive: these days, serious coverage must include a lot of culture, science, technology and so on. Nothing is out of bounds. We can write about the Iranian economy or what Verve wear on their feet. The question is: how good, interesting and well-informed is the

writing? Rosie Boycott and I have been told, in simple terms, to make the paper steadily more intelligent and serious. During an era when most

an unusual and exhilarating instruction. Further, we have been given some money to spend on journalists - another happy surprise. The Independent will never be a fat-cat paper (in your dreams, Marr) but now we have the tools and ownership to do the job. Who, with a spark of imagination, could resist?

Hmm. You've mentioned Rosie Bov-

Yes, and before you start, we get on well and are both determined to carry on doing so. We are very different types, interested in different things. with different histories, prejudices and talents. But we both think we can make a better paper together than either of us could do separately. Fleet Street fore says that authority cannot

improve the whole paper. Will you change the editorial line of the paper, including the cannabis campaign?

The values of the paper are at its beart. We are a liberal, pro-political reform, pro-European paper, with friends in all parties and signed up to none. None of that is going to change a jot. The cannabis campaign was always an Independent on Sunday one, conducted vigorously, which is changing the terms of debate throughout the country. Rosie and I don't wholly agree about cannabis, though I do think it should be legalised for medical use but the IoS will carry on what it started. Are you going to go back to the pre-

No. In different circumstances, it be shared in a newspaper - that it's would have worked. A lot of readers

Fleet Street lore says that authority cannot be shared in a newspaper - that it needs a single cap'n to see it through. We disagree

like some kind of storm-tossed ship needing a single bawling cap'n with a peg leg to make it through. We disagree. We intend The Independent to be an open, comradely and freethinking organisation, without two loud and contending egos struggling with cutlasses on a slippery quarterdeck. But those members of staff who have taken to referring to us as Richard and Judy had better watch their step.

But who will do what? In day to day terms, I set the editorial policy in the "leaders" and oversee the comment pages, seven days a week: Rosie does the rest. But there isn't going to be a sharply divided paper, with two different characters do-ing different bits. We'll work together liked it, some loathed it. One day, maybe, lots of newspapers will look that way. But you can't keep zig-zagging back and forth. The paper's design is now going to gently evolve in a direction we think you will approve of (if you notice it - newspaper design is, I know, something of vast interest to editors and vastly less interest to most readers).

But don't you have a big-stick praprietor, now, in Tony O'Reilly? I've worked with him as commentator and editor for three or four years and he has never once tried to influence the policy of this paper. He is no Rupert Murdoch. He likes journalists and journalism of quality, and expresses cheerfully earthy contempt for proprietors who try to stifle editorial

1T'S GOOD to be home. For those papers are dumbing down, it came as as equals, sharing ideas about how to freedom. He's also appointed people to the board of our company, like Chris Patten and Baroness (Helena) Kennedy, who are known as toughminded and independent types. Which you wouldn't do if you wanted to undermine the paper's freedom. Would

> Aren't you still, though, bound to be squeezed to death by the price war? It doesn't help. The whole broadsheet market has been distorted by Murdoch's predatory pricing and continues to be so. But I sniff a change in the weather. The House of Lords amendment to the Competition Bill which deals with this was passed against the wishes of the Government after an excellent and heated debate. Then came the great HarperCollins affair - though Chris Patten had agreed to serve on our new board before that - and the row over the Times's China coverage. As a result, in the Commons, more and more MPs on both sides have finally decided that Murdoch's unfair tactics must somehow be confronted. I hope and believe that a useful compromise offer will come from the Government, as a result. This is a good time for The Independent to be back in fighting form. Have you learnt anything from your

dismissal? Yes. First, I've got more friends than

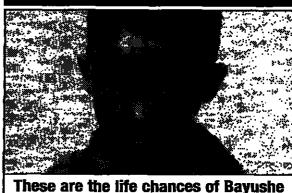
I thought I had. Second, my children's Are you going to carry on writing like

a low-rent Miles Kington? No. Sorry. I will be back to writing straight stuff more or less immedi-

Well, that's clear enough. Now don't you think we've heard enough about you, and the paper, for a while? Yes. Yes. Quite right. Sorry. Stop apologising.

Pandora's daily diary, The Box, can be found in its new home, on page 5.

Bayushe's life chances...



and other children like her in Ethiopia: Living until the age of five: 82% 46%

Receiving proper healthcare: 25% Having clean water to drink: Being able to go to school: At World Vision, we believe these odds are simply

unacceptable. You can help us improve them. Sponsor a child like Bayushe, and you'll enable us to bring about real and lasting change through vital development work in her community, making it a healthier, happier place to grow up in.

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Please send me a Child Sponsorship information pack.
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Practical Christian Caring Million Keynes, MK9 3YZ

Julian Simon

Julian Simon will go down in history as the man who bet Paul Ehrlich, the famous author of The Population Bomb (1968), that the price of a basket of metals would go down between 1980 and 1990, and not up as those he characterised as doommongers predicted. He won: and the neo-Malthusians never forgave him. While they were right to point out that the wager hardly measured the condition of mankind, his forthrightness in making it was breathtaking. Simon had asserted that re-

sources tend not to become scarce through overuse and any threat that they might merely hastens their replacement by better products. Never one to The Ultimate Resource (1981, allow a sensible argument to get updated in 1996) and they en-Ionely for the absence of a more outrageous assertion to stand in its support, he supposed that mineral mining on the moon. would be in place before prices sky-rocketed. In a voice which rapidly alternated between deepest bass and soaring squeak, he adored displaying the obvious commonsensical basis of an opponent's position, and then knocking it all around his room.

Simon was the Professor of Business Administration at Maryland University outside Washington from 1983. Beyond bird-watching whilst he wrote and read in most weathers outdoors, he had no pretensions to deared him to the massive figacademic experience in biology. What made him unique, valuable and loathed was that he took the battle over population and resources issues line for line, graph for graph, into the opposing camp. He was a statistican who loved to point out that graphs seldom go in one di-. rection for ever and that the new orthodoxies were highly selective in their use of the evidence.

As the Club of Rome's Limits to Growth (1972) spawned the Global 2000 Report to the US President (1980), and the population control movement's old agenda tailied with the new environmental and conservation agendas, it was Simon who produced, not cautionary caveats, but a mirror image to the new visions of scarcity and pollution. ingenuity of mankind in the face in Business Economics. He was land 8 February 1998.

the conservationists were most- Bauer, for instance, had been ly working well beyond their real competence and had strayed into an area he understood better than they; numbers. He did not need to be a biologist or a demographer to point to the evidence that helping families become richer was as quick a way to reduce their fertility as any. His work on the subject first appeared with his paper The Effects of Income on Fertility, published in 1974 whilst he was at the University of Illinois.

At Maryland, in the post be held until his death, he developed these lines of argument in



ure of Herman Kahn, of the Hudson Institute, with whom he edited a big volume of doombusting papers by many hands, The Resourceful Earth (1984). The support of Norman Macrae at the *Economist* helped these ideas get a hearing in the UK, but they remained deeply distrusted by most of the media.

Simon was never content just to point out the weaknesses in the doomsters' numbercrunching. But he was saved from a purely contrarian posiexplain how population necessity was the mother of economic and social invention. In pressing this argument to breaking point, he was truly original.

saying much the same sort of thing about resource economics for years. John Maddox had excoriated the Doomsday Syndrome in his book of that title in 1972. The Danish agronomist Esther Boserup had declared in the 1960s that even primitive farmers often respond quickly to the need to feed more people. Simon's importance in this debate was in making his ideas famous at a time when fashion was running all the other way.

He loved to point out how the Low Countries of the 17th century or the Japan of the 20th had grown rich through a combination of a lack of resources and the presence of a well-, but not over-, managed market. Large populations, he said, could only be held back from economic growth by perverse governments. Above all, he propounded tirelessly the view that more babies meant more brains. One of his last pieces of writing was for Wired magazine in January, in which he celebrated what he took to be the vast increase in shared knowledge which information technologies were bringing to the world. One of his last pieces of research insisted that amongst almost every class and type of American, education levels were rising fast. It was a sign that the debate he did so much to energise is becoming more mainstream that Wired wrote an admiring profile of him, and that the makers of last year's lively Channel Four series, Against Nature, found him a valuable source of ideas.

Julian Simon was of a cast of mind not much seen on this side of the Atlantic. He was a freemarket man in economics and a Libertarian in politics. His first book, How to Start and Operate tion by his messianic desire to a Mail-Order Business (1965) still sells and was based on his own commercial activities in the 1950s. His first degree at Harvard in 1953 was in experimental psychology and his PhD His pronouncements on the at the University of Chicago was

He was well-placed to do so of rising human numbers were in advertising for several years. because he understood that seldom fresh insights. Peter He believed that the most fundamental freedom was that of individual choice. So it was natural perhaps, when he turned to larger themes, that whilst he argued that rising populations of humans produced more sources of innovation and wealth than new problems, he disliked the antiabortion movement as much as he excoriated anything like state compulsion in birth control programmes.

Much the same impulses made him a tireless campaigner in newspapers and magazines on behalf of the human and economic advantages that immigrants bring to any society.

Simon suffered for many years with bouts of depression and he wrote Good Mood: the new psychology of overcoming depression (1993) on his notions about battling against the Black Dog. In the foreword to another book, he described how working on his upbeat themes about the human condition had helped him in recent years.

Julian Simon did not attend synagogue, but he and his family made a point of keeping the Sabbath, during which he did no work. Even a short time spent with him was giddy and uplifting. Although engaged in heated debate, he never publicly slipped into the personal abuse some of his opponents used against him. It is said that he was embittered for being so widely disliked for views he thought at least deserved recognition forbeing humane, and it is at least odd that his formal academic field should be so different from the Cornucopianism for which his name is likely to be remembered.

Richard D. North

Julian Lincoln Simon, economist: born Newark, New Jersey 12 February 1932; Professor of Economics and of Business Administration, University of Illinois 1969-83; Professor of **Business Administration, University** of Maryland, Washington DC 1983-98; married 1961 (two sons, one daughter); died Chevy Chase, Mary



Ben Bowden

Ben Bowden was an ambitious and talented industrial designer. In 1946, he was the proud father of two of Britam's most talked-about new vehicles. Ironically, one was the fastest on the streets, the other so slow it barely made it off the drawing board.

During the Second World War Bowden met Donald Healey when they worked together at Humber, designing armoured vehicles. Healey, an extrovert racing driver and sports car guru, forecast massive post-war demand for fast cars. So, with their colleague Achille Sampletro engineering the chassis, and Bowden's excellent design eye, he created the Healey 2.4 – so-called because of its 2.4-litre Riley engine.

Bowden initially drew the sweeping, aerodynamic lines of the 2.4 on the wall of his Coventry house before turning them into full-scale plans and, with government permission, the car went into production in an old aircraft hangar at Warwick. Its advanced features included lightweight aluminium bodywork, plastic windows and headlamps concealed behind streamlined flaps.

Healey hit the headlines in 1947 by winding a 2.4 up to 111mph on the Jabbeke Highway in Belgium, and winning the Alpine Rally. It was something Britain could be proud of in a

gloomy post-war world - its first post-war 100mph production car - even if the £2,723 price for the saloon made it strictly a rich man's pleasure.

Yet Bowden's driving passion lay in his attempts to revolutionise the proletarian push bike, and at the flag-waving 1946 "Britain Can Make It" exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum, the public were amazed at his "Bicycle of the Future". Although Bowden claimed

in his patent that his main intention was to "provide improvement of aesthetic and practical character" in pedal cycles, it was a radical departure in construction terms. Instead of a framework of welded tubes, it consisted of two, mirror-image pressed-steel halves joined together to form a hollow "body", with a fully enclosed front mudguard. Its sculpted curves recalled the 1930s American streamlining craze, but the bike contained innovations like drive from pedals to rear wheel by steel shaft instead of chain; this meant the rear wheel could be removed simply by pulling out its spindle.

There was suspension for the front fork, and batteries hidden. inside the bike's frame powered lights, a horn, even a built-in radio. A locker under the seat concealed a pump and tools. British bike manufacturers

proved too set in their tyre tracks to put Bowden's revolutionary bike into production, however. A plan to manufacture it in South Africa came to nought and, in frustration, he left

for the United States in 1949. It wasn't until 1960 that Bowden's bicycle went into production there, christened the Spacelander and built in glass fibre by his own company. There was a choice of seven colours including pink, but the shaft drive was replaced by a conventional chain.

Advertised as a plaything for 'youthful persons of all ages", the Bowden now looked somewhat dated, and only 522 had been made when the parent company went bust.

Now highly prized and worth over £6,000 each, they are also rare: when one was selected for the Royal College of Art's "Make or Break" show in 1986, Paul Clark of Brighton University had to make a replica guided only by photos. Pressed-steel frames were later adopted by Italy's Vespa for

mopeds, contributing to the huge world-wide boom in cheap, mass-produced motorcycles throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Bowden was born in North Kensington in 1906 and, despite

scooters and Japan's Honda for

gineering from the Regent Street Polytechnic and worked as a designer in car bodybuilding.

By the end of the 1930s he was chief body engineer at the Rootes Group's Humber factory in Coventry. The London studies of the industrial designer Raymond Loewy were often consulted when Humber cars were restyled, and this relationship inspired Bowden, with a partner, John Allen, to establish his own industrial design company in Leamington Spa, a picturesque stone's throw from the car industry's West Midlands heartland. It was one of the first companies of its type in Britain.

Allen-Bowden designed everything from forklift trucks to Avery scales. In 1948 Bowden became a member of the Society of Industrial Artists.

After emigrating to the US. Ben Bowden enjoyed a wideranging career as a freelance product designer, at one time developing an ingenious modular construction method for the Willys Jeep, Somehow, though, he never got over the commercial failure of his bicycle. He spent his final years in retirement in Florida.

- Gifes Chapman Benjamin George Bowden, Industrial designer: born London 3 June 1906; music training as a violinist at married (four children); died Lake the Guildhall, graduated in en- Worth, Florida 6 March 1998.

ning talk as Agoes on Cl eding spree

Patriarch Karekin Kazanjian

Patriarch Karekin II was for Catholicos in Armenia. Last Denearly eight years the spiritual 'cember it ordered the Patriarleader of Turkey's much-de- chate to disband its council of pleted Armenian community. lay advisers. Meanwhile, Is-Now numbering some 60,000, it lamic extremists have attacked is the largest Christian minority in the country.

Although the Armenian Patriarchate was founded in the city back in 1461, the Istanbul area is the last remaining place in today's Turkey with an Armenian population. The executions and Armenian population of Anatolia between 1894 and 1915 saw the deaths of more than one mil- St James's seminary. In 1945 he lion Armenians, This legacy still hangs heavily over the Patriar- 1950 a celibate priest. While chate in the Kumkapi district of Istanbul, from where Karekin led his flock.

difficult task of negotiating with the Turkish authorities over the church's rights while at the same time having to seek protection from them against attacks on the church by Islamic Armenian secondary schools extremists. The government and served as a teacher and maintains strict restrictions on principal at the Patriarchate's ministrator of St James's Semthe church's activities, as it clergy school. The Holy Cross does of all Christian churches. Seminary was finally opened in It closed the Holy Cross Armenian seminary in 1971 and re- Karekin became dean. From fuses to allow the rebuilding of church premises. In 1995 it NCO in the Turkish armed banned lay delegates from par- forces before being sent to the ticipating in elections for a new United States to become priest his homeland, Karekin faced his Istanbul 10 March 1998.

the Patriarchate and a number of churches in the past few years. Such a predicament called for firmness and diplomacy.

Karekin was born Bedros Kazanjian in Istanbul in 1927, and received his elementary ed acation at Armenian schools Jerusalem at the age of 13 to prepare for religious ministry at was ordained deacon and in preparing for ordination he

taught in a number of schools. As patriarch, he had the Patriarch, Karekin Khachadourian, he returned to Istanbul in December 1951 to help establish a seminary for the Patriarchate. While plans were taking shape he taught at two Uskudar in January 1954 and 1957 to 1959 he served as an



forced expulsions of the entire in the city before being sent to Kazanjian: defended the Armenian community in Turkey

of an Armenian parish in Washington DC. In November 1966 he was

consecrated bishop by the head of the Patriarchate in Istanbul of the worldwide Armenian Church, Catholicos Vazgen, At the invitation of the then and was appointed Patriarchal Legate to the Far East. Later, he was elected Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Australia and New Zealand. In 1980, he returned to Jerusalem and served as the Grand Sacristan of the Patriarchate, the second in command, also serving as adinary. Karekin was elected 83rd Patriarch of Istanbul in September 1990 on the death of Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian.

While much of his ministry was spent in the diaspora away from the restrictive conditions of

greatest challenges on returning home as patriarch. But he successfully administered the affairs under very difficult circumstances. During his tenure, he was able to develop working relations with the Turkish government and defend, as much as possible, the rights of the Armenian community in Turkey. While not a charismatic figure, he was liked and respected by the local Armenian community.

Felix Corley

Bedros Kazanjian (Patriarch Karekin), priest: bom Istanbul 18 May 1927; ordained deacon 1945, priest 1950; Primate of Australia and New Zealand 1966-81; Grand Sacristan, Jerusalem 1981-90; 83rd Patriarch of Istanbul 1990-98; died

Edith Rudinger

pioneers of the approachable, accurate and rigorously verified consumer information that gave Which? and its publications great success and a reputation for independence.

She joined the fledgling Consumers' Association in 1957 as Secretary to the Council of Management, helped to choose the first director, and settled into a career that involved many jobs until she retired in 1988. It was as the Editor of Consumer Publications, the Association's book publishing activity, from 1962, that she set her stamp of high standards and integrity on practical information to help lay readers cope with those hurdles of life which are often. and mystifyingly, the province of professionals who hold all the cards of knowledge.

Her approach was idiosyncratic. She commissioned each book from an "expert" but she regarded the manuscript as a jumping-off point. Drafts were sent out to consultants, and then marriage to Hugh Gray in 1954, the book was reworked word by word and sentence by sentence, incorporating information provided by the consultants, hunt-

that combined information without ambiguity. Nothing was allowed to go in that did not meet her severe standards.

Her first collaboration was with a young lawyer then working for the Inland Revenue, David Tench (who later joined the Association as its energetic 'campaigning legal adviser), The Law for Consumers (1962), and The Law for Motorists (1963) were the first titles. They were followed by Wills and Probate (1967), The Legal Side of Buying a House (1965) and What to Do When Someone Dies (1969), all approachable, all appreciated and therefore best-sellers. These last three are still, in their constantly up-dated versions, stable reference books.

Edith Rudinger came to England from Czechoslovakia in 1939 as a child refugee, under the auspices of the Quaker Society of Friends. A degree in philosophy at St Andrews, a career at the Consumers' Association lasting over 30 years, a law degree in 1978, followed by a diploma in criminal law, cupations of consumerism should

Edith Rudinger was one of the ing down more if necessary, so and three years working for a that the end result was a book degree in Opera Studies until her last illness, provide only a glimpse of her sparkle, vivacity, wisdom and erudition.

Conversation with her was fascinating. She managed to attend almost every interesting opera, play, concert and exhibition. When Hugh became Labour MP for Yarmouth in 1966, they bought a cottage there and she gave him every support. She loved Venice and they had an apartment there which they visited as often as possible. In retirement, when Hugh was International Secretary of the Theosophical Society, they made a winter visit to India every year.

Her health often caused her much discomfort; but she never complained or showed self pity; sometimes in severe pain she would close her office door and lie down on the floor, only to get up again in half an hour with apparently renewed energy. Often first in the office and last to leave when a deadline demanded it. her energy was astonishing.

It may seem incongruous that someone so cosmopolitan and so little concerned with the preoc-



have established the stable of practical books that characterise the Which? publications. Yet it is typical of Edith Rudinger's generosity of spirit that she wanted to demystify formidable subjects for unformidable people so that they could meet on reliably equal terms. She, such a joyous searcher after knowledge, maintained that approachable information gave people the power they needed to take control of situations that affected their lives. Her job was to do the work that made knowledge accessible.

Rosemary McRobert Edith Esther Rudinger, consumer offairs editor: born Vienna 2 March 1925; married 1954 Hugh Gray; died 🌘 London 28 February 1998

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

MITCHELL: Malcolm 1926-1998. MUSICIAN, composer, co-founder Musician, composer, co-founder MMA/HP: ICM. Loving and adored husband, father and grandfather. On 9 March, peacefully, after bravely and beautifully coping with his long illness. In tribute, domarions to St Wilfred's Hospice, c/o Reynolds, Funeral Directors, 31 High Street, Bognor Registers West Susser PO21 1RR.

MORROCCO: At Ninewells Hospital Dundee on Thesday 10 March 1998, Alberto Morrocco, RSA OBE, Dearbeloved husband of Vera, much loved father of Leon, Lamie and Lisa, a loving grandfather and dear brother of Val. Funeral Service at Long-forgan Parish Church on Monday 16 March at 1.45pm. Family flowers called the service at the level of the love of the lov please, but donations in lieu if ed may be made to canon re-

tta telephone 0171-293 2012.

Birthdays

Baroness Amos, former chief execntive, Equal Opportunities Com-mission, 44; Mr Walter Annenberg, publisher and former ambassador to Britain, 90; Lord Borrie, QC, former director-general of Fair Trading, 67; Mr Terence Brady, playwright, nov-elist and actor, 59; Sir Terence Burns; permanent secretary, HM Treasury, 54; Lord Butterworth, former Vice-Chancellor, Warwick University, 80: Sit Michael Checkland, former director-general of the BBC, 62: Miss Lesley Collier, ballerina, 51: Mr Lionel Friend, conductor, and musical director, Nexus Opera, 53; Mr Christopher Gable, actor and ballet dancer, 58; Sir Graham Hart, permanent secretary, Departme Health, 58: Sir Robert Mark, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 81; Mr James Marshall MP, 57; Sir Henry Nevile, former Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, 78; Dr David Peace, glass engraver and town planner, 85; Air Commodore Helen Renton, former director, WRAF, 67; Mr Neil Sedaka, song-writer and singer, 59; Mr Jim Slater,

author and former chairman. Slater

Walker Securities, 69; Lord Thomas of Gresford QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 61; Mr Peter Viggers

Anniversaries Births: Dr Joseph Priestley, scientist and clergyman, 1733; Charles Grey, Second Earl, former prime minister, 1764; Daniel Lambert, fat man who weighed over 52 stones (728 lb or 330 kg), 1770; Karl Friedrich Schinkel, architect and painter, 1781; Percival Lowell, astronomer, 1855; Hugo Wolf, composer, 1860; Ramon Sir Hugh Seymour Walpole, novel-ist, 1884; Henry Hathaway, film di-rector, 1898; George Seferis (Giorgos Stylianou Seferiades), Greek poet and diplomat, 1900. Deaths: Tsar Alexander II of Russia, assassinat 1881: Benjamin Harrison, 23rd President of the US, 1901; Major Frederick George Jackson, Arctic explorer, 1938; Thomas (Rom) Mann, trade union leader, 1941; Angela Brazil, girls' school-story writer, 1947; Winston Churchill, novelist, 1947; John Middleton Murry, author, 1957; Robert Cecil Romer Mangh-am, Second Viscount (Robin Mangh-

am), novelist, 1981. On this day: the Yorkists defeated the Lancastrians at the Battle of Stamford, 1470; the French Huguenots were defeated at the Battle of Jamac, 1569; as pre-dicted by Halley in 1682, Halley's Comet came to its perihelion, 1758; the planet Uranus was discovered by Sir William Herschel, 1781; Standard time was established in the US, 1884; General Roberts captured mfontein, South Africa, 1900; Austria was declared to be part of the German Reich (the Anschluss), and

Lectures :

was renamed "Ostmark", 1938. Today is the Feast Day of St Ansovinus, St Euphrasia or Eupraxia, St Gerald of Mayo, St Heldrad, St Mochoemoc, St Nicephorus of Con-stantinople and Saints Roderic and Salomou

Victoria & Albert Museum: Wendy Williams, "Baroque Sculpture" 2.30pm.

School of Oriental and African Studies, London WC1: Professor Andrew Harding, "Public Law vs Comparative Law: the match of the (21st) century", 5.30pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

NOTAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Dulce of York, Patron, Round
Square, visits the Round Square European
Regional Conference at Wellington College, Crowthome, Berkshire, Prince Edward, Patron, The Royal Exchange
Theatre Company, visits the theatre's offices and attends a periormance of Animal Crackers, Manchester. The Dulce of
Gloucester, Patron, ICOMOS UK (International Council on Monuments and
Sites), artends a conference at the RTBA ternational Council on Monuments and Skes), attends a conference at the RIBA beadquarters. Portland Place, London WCI.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath

begins in London at 5.47pm. United Synagogues 0881-342 9989, Fed-eration of Synagogues 0881-202 2243, Union of Liberal and Programive Syna-ogiese 3771-389 1643. Reform Syrangogues of Great Britain: 0881-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0/71-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti):

CALLS TO THE BAR: HILARY TERM 1998

Lincoln's Inn
Peter John Cooke; Julian Robert Smith; Linda Angela Burabult; Drawita Mazan Sapaipalt; Khurraari Alex Mehthi; Rupetri Cuincey; Choet; Dr Jonathan Lee Black-Breach; David Walker; Teck Hock Lee; Peter Jonathan Lockley, Anap Kam Schie; Ucha Curistian Joseph-Njoku; Shien Ching Neo; Zuban Nassa Alam; Misa Lydia Esther Marshall Bein; Matthew Stephen Berkindt, Noola Felen Bese; Facle Karlin Chowdhury; Ramadah Abdul Rahunar; Fathima Faiza Markat; Ewangelos Caristopher Apostolou; Dayangku Nina Jasmine Bahrin; James Michael Allport; Stephanis Mary Flyun; Andalseeve Rahmas; Ann Potrina Alet: Misa Susian Elizabeth Mills; Andrew David Shew; Yeok Leng Ser Simon Wickens; Edrisa Manajang Senoho; Thuresa Jacqueline Hattar; Fathnah Hisey Yen Won; Ennly Bridget Ellen Wood: David Kenyon-Vaughan; Stephen David Cottor; Nicholas James Himrold; Lee Gierfiell; Simon John Frunch; Shaiba Ilyas; Neil Robert Gamble; Punch; Shaiba Ilyas; Neil Robert Gamble; Punch; Fanapoise Charlotta Binet; Valerie Frances Swetting, Michael Marc Roman; David Ng Wal Choon; Mahmal Fand Amer Guand Ng Wal Choon; Mahmal Fand American James James

Inner Temple Devid Alexander Wile

Douglas Lincoln Samuel; Androulla Sotiria Hadjaimou; Uthra Devi Rajgopal; Gabriele Shaw; Andrew Charles John Yale; Jonathan Mütchel; Julief Shawn Quashie; Saidou Abdoulie N'Dow; Thomas Ashley Cophlin; Catherine Teresa Mulkerius; Gary Len Grimshaw; Mangaret Christine Gaurduer; William Fabian Ryan; Patrick; John Goodult; Douald William Macfant; Alistair Robert Henry; Kenneth John Grant.

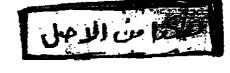
Middle Temple

Middle Terriple
Yena Barkry, Maria Elena Candilio; Robint
Denis Chapman; Beverly Jaq Roberts;
Michael Edward Joseph Ruben Mulcaly;
Yeo Kwong Chan; Victoria Anna Williams;
Sara Kate Genter; Siobhan Angela Molloy;
Mohinder Rustar Sadhearu; Arma Maria Alfonsina Venturino; Kala Malar Genkniharan; Mohammad Javed Armi; Carohne
Jane Paniccis: Brendan Halligan; Benocket
Gilles Frederick Feers; Stefan R. Liban; Jon
Balward Daniel Thomsley; Rachel Elizabeth
Bastin; Jane Anna Howard; Amarick Singh
Gill; Keny Campbelt; Michael Boyd Deane;
Lan Mark Cooper; Ai Leen Tang; Michael
Wai Yen Chong; Rosalind Mary O'Sullysin;
Karen Tanya Walton; Diane Omodola
Asekan; Hugh Desmond Blake-James;
Nahd Rafig; Celia Saint Caler Record; Ruth
Roberta Elizabeth Cabeza; Andrew Elizane
De Mexire: Paul Justin Woolgar; Caroline

Ann wayman, Americ eizzueth McMahon, Jacqueline Anne Catherine Dinan-Llay-ward, Louise Jane Pulmur; Brian Adam Sampson: Cho Man Tsui; Prahalaran Chun-drakesan; Nashah Bashah; Jonathan Simon Schwarz; Desid Webster, James Hayden

Gray's Inn onnthan Marc Law, Desmond Paul Hiel, y-Freda Elizabeth Cranfickt; Grace Wai Yi

ey, Freda Elizabeth Cranfiech; Grace W.; i Y. Haie; Pauline Mary Swan; Dawd Roy Whatney, John Michael Luck; Lun Rassell Taylor, Olareni Rushidar, Abecto Alaricogu; Leske Andrew Branninghan; Elizabeth Catmeron Campbell; Artold James Told; Pamela Makandaba Vase; Luuisa Adenonnu; Caroline Sarah Waxah Wayue Hali-Paterson; Itar Yew Teck; Martyn Handamy; Bata Antonia Maria Paaliz, Paul Louis Anthum; Rayas; John Michael Edward Denns Smith, Glees Rudyard Fernando; Charles Berechettus Alexander Quines; Eliz O'Louke; Sancon John Reche Rahal William Biflom; Grant Lau Graham Smalh; Kievan Machoel Isafe Haurinder Kun Salhu; Speak Shazia Hadder Nager; Melanic Denise Simpson; Carl Dwoling; Haurinder Kun Salhu; Speak Shazia Hadder Nager; Melanic Denise Simpson; Sasun John Dawa; Magela Catherine Anuc Austur; Nogel Geung Moon Kwan; John Latoual Beutlon, Rubb.



Pension sales costs could reach £11bn

THE FINANCIAL SERVICES watchdog yesterday revealed that the cost of sorting out the pensions mis-selling scandal could reach £11bn - almost three times early estimates.

the Financial Services Authority (FSA), launched the second phase of the mis-selling review. So far, financial watchdogs have concentrated only on the most urgent cases. Now the regulators have turned their attention to the less urgent cases - most of which involve the under 35s - and have issued a consultation paper which sets out how to take the process forward.

Mr Davies reckons the second phase of the review will cover as many as 1.8 million investors - around 300,000 more than previously thought. The FSA estimates that pension mis-selling could have cost members of this second class of investors between £2,250 and £12,000 each.

Helen Liddell, economic secretary to the Treasury, said she found it "alarming" that so many people could be affected by the second stage of the pen-

Ms Liddell's tough approach to the mis-selling scandal in recent months is believed to have pension companies into action.

The financial services regulators began their review of pensions mis-selling back in 1994 amid growing concern that investors could have been wrongly persuaded to switch Howard Davies, head of from occupational pension schemes into personal pension plans. The regulators initially concentrated their efforts on "priority cases" - typically people at or near retirement and investors who had died before receiving recompense.

The regulators soon realised that the scope of the scandal was far greater than first thought. The first phase of the pensions review eventually covered 640,000 people and is likely to cost the pensions industry a total of £4.5bn. Phase one is "now approaching completion", according to Mr Davies.

Mr Davies plans to launch a multi-million pound advertising campaign to raise public awareness of the second and final phase of the campaign. He said the campaign would be paid for by the pensions industry "either on a voluntary basis or by regulatory levy".

hoped progress in phase two of of cases. the review would be far faster than phase one. When the scandal first broke, pension companies initially dragged their been instrumental in spurring heels and progress was imped-

ed by extensive legal wrangling

Under the terms of the consultation paper launched by the PSA, companies will be obliged to write to affected investors and ask them to provide some basic details about their case. Companies will also have to chase investors who fail to respond and provide a preliminary assessment of the extent of the problem by the end of March

At that point, the FSA will then set targets for each pension company for completing their reviews, and will monitor progress on a regular basis. As in the first phase of the review, companies which fall behind schedule could be "named or shamed" or may find themselves facing hefty fines. In addition, from the summer, the regulatory bodies will have extra powers to bar directors from conducting business in the financial services industry.

Total costs of this second phase are likely to range between £3.8bn and £6.5bn, Mr Davies said. Most - if not all pension companies have yet to make financial provisions for The FSA chief added that he dealing with this second tranche

The industry broadly welcomed FSA's move. Companies have until 15 May to respond to



Outlook, page 25 Jacquetta Bath, who was persuaded to switch from her NHS pension scheme to a private one Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

Salesman's patter proved persuasive

JACQUETTA Bath, a 33-yearold nurse, says she wishes she'd known more about pensions when she was approached by a salesman from a pensions company back in 1988, write Lea Paterson and Andrew Verity.

"Someone was talking to my husband about a pension and when the salesman had finished be turned to me and asked whether I had thought about changing schemes," she said.

Mrs Bath, a mother-of-two had been a member of the NHS scheme since 1983. At the time, she did not realise her employer contributed to her occupational pension scheme. As a result, she found the salesman's patter extremely persuasive.

"He said his scheme was better and the fund would have grown bigger by the time I retired." Mrs Bath remembered being impressed by the fact she could continue to contribute to the company's scheme if she took a career break and if she decided to change employers.

Convinced she was doing the right thing, Mrs Bath switched into the private scheme in 1988. It was only a few years ago that she began to question the wisdom of her decision.

Her anion put her in con tact with the Personal Investment Authority, the pensions watchdog, which advised her to switch back to her occupational pension scheme. She stopped her payments to the company, and began contributing to the NHS scheme two years ago.

Mrs Bath is still waiting for

Rolls-Royce and BAe

boosted as Battle

lifts foreign ceiling

Fighting talk as GKN goes on £1 bn spending spree

By Michael Harrison

GKN, the automotive, defence and industrial services group, yesterday said it had £1bn to spend on acquisitions and confirmed that it has held exploratory talks about merging its Westland helicopters business with Agusta of Italy.

The group also said it expected to hear by the end of the month whether it had been selected for a £4bn contract to build a new generation of "battlefield taxis" for the British and German armies and other European defence forces.

An Anglo-German consortium led by GKN is favourite to win the contract in preference to Team International, a rival consortium including Vickers and Alvis of the UK and German and French partners. CK Chow, GKN's chief ex-

ecutive, said the discussions about a helicopter merger with Agusta, Westland's partner on the EH101 programme had been "preliminary". But he added: "We work well together and it would not be illogical to look at a joint relationship with Agusta in the future,"

A combination of Westland and Agusta would create a helicopter group with sales of about £1bn, of which the UK company would contribute about two-thirds.

Mr Chow indicated that GKN would concentrate on building up its three main divisions through organic growth

or bolt-on acquisitions, saying it could finance £1bn-worth of takeover deals without having to raise further equity capital. The three main areas in which it is looking for acquisitions are powder metallurgy, off-highway vehicles products and aerospace structures. Last year GKN acquired eight businesses at a cost of £462m, including Sinter Metals of the

The order for battlefield taxis -or Multi-Role Armoured Vehicles as they are known would be worth £2bn to GKN, which has a 50 per cent stake in the consortium. The British, German and other European armies have a requirement for 7,000 vehicles with deliveries starting in 2004. The export potential could be the same

The winning consortium could form the basis for a restructuring of Europe's military vehicles industry. Mr Chow said Europe had 20 manufacturers compared with just two in the US and rationalisation would be needed to improve its

He was speaking as GKN unveiled a 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profits before exceptionals to £406m. Although the results were at the top end of expectations and were accompanied by a bullish outlook. GKN shares slipped 17p to 1493 as dealers sold off "export" stocks in response to the strengthening pound.

British Biotech suspends research director

THE CITY's confidence in British Biotech suffered the drugs group, which is developing a cure for cancer, confirmed that it had suspended Dr Andrew Millar, its director of clinical research, pending an investigation of breaches in company policy".

British Biotech shares closed the day down 15.5p at 70p, a two-year low. The company was forced to make its statement after the news had leaked out, prompting investors to speculate that the company's clinical trials had hit problems.

In its statement, the company insisted that its development programmes were

ittected, Marimastat, ils do tential cancer cure, is currently undergoing final stage III clinical trials while Zacutex, deanother blow yesterday after veloped to treat acute pancreatitis, is also close to hitting the market. British Biotech said it "continues to be encouraged by the progress of its clinical

> Sources close to the company said Dr Millar was sent home on Wednesday after it was alleged that he had been discussing the company's research programmes with outsiders.

The company has launched an investigation over the supply of information about British Biotech's progress to investors. Dr Millar has been at the company since 1992, and had regularly taken part in presen-

tations to investors and analyst The company said there was no evidence that Dr Millar had profited from inside information.

been unhappy at British Biotech since the company made Dr Peder Jensen its development director and chief medical officer in January. Dr Millar ap- a series of upsets in the past few plied for the job but was not

Dr Jensen sits on the main board and is responsible for all the company's research and clinical development. He is also Dr Millar's boss.

If Dr Millar leaves the company, he will be the third highprofile departure from British Biotech's senior management team in the past two years. Earlier Peter Lewis, the research

director, and James Noble, th finance director, had resigned. Analysts said Dr Miliar han-

dled the company's relation-He is understood to have ships with clinical research laboratories. Those contacts will have to be rebuilt by his British Biotech has suffered

> years. In 1996, the company's shares soared to 326p as it almost became the first biotech company to enter the FTSE 100 index of leading companies. However, management departures and setbacks in clinical trials dragged the shares back.

and Kickers in an effort to in-

crease margins across the group.

of the business undertaken by An-

drew Rubin, the new chief exec-

utive of Pentland, who replaced

his father in the role last autumn.

a shake up of its loss making US

fashion footwear business. It is

sacking 60 people and closing

an office in New York at a cost

of £3.9m in an effort to guide

the division back into profit.

Pentland announced an 11 per

cent rise in pre-tax profits to

£40.5m despite a disappointing

performance at Berghaus, best

known for its outdoor clothing,

which suffered due to abnor-

The group also announced

The move is part of a review

Last month, its shares lost 30 per cent of their value when a European industry regulator put an application to market Zacutex on hold.

By Michael Harrison SHARES in British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce rose yesterday after the Government con-

firmed that it is lifting the ceiling on foreign shareholdings in the two companies from 29.5 per cent to 49.5 per cent. However, John Battle, the Industry Minister, also announced that there would be a new limit of 15 per cent on in-

dividual foreign shareholdings in each of the companies. The new limits will be enforced through the indefinite "golden share" that the Gov-

ernment holds in BAe and The increase in the ceilings

was long-awaited and followed an intensive lobbying campaign by BAe and Rolls who argued that the restriction limited the marketability of their shares and depressed their share prices.

The request for a limit on individual shareholdings was contained in the joint application put to the Department of Trade and Industry by the two companies in July although it is understood that BAe would have preferred there to be no limits at all, either on overall or individual foreign shareholdings.

Shareholders will be asked to vote on the increase in the shareholder ceilings at the annual meetings of BAe and Rolls, due to held respectively on 29 April and 28 May.

Mr Battle said the relaxation in the ceilings was "designed to

promote the competitiveness of these companies by increasing their freedom to operate commercially in the world markets".

Rolls chairman, Sir Ralph Robins, said the changes were consistent with the increasingly international nature of its business. Three quarters of its sales are exports or are generated outside the UK.

In recent weeks both companies have been purling up against their 29.5 per cent ceilings in anticipation that the limits would be lined.

The current level of foreign ownership in BAe is 29.14 per cent while Rolls is 27 per cent foreign owned. At privatisation in 1985 for BAe and 1987 for Rolls the limit on foreign ownership was set at 15 per cent. It was raised to the current level in 1989 after a number of forced sales after foreign shareholders had breached the limit.

A DTI spokeswoman said that to have raised the overall limit to 49.5 per cent but not to have imposed a lower ceiling on individual shareholdings would have defeated the object since a single foreign shareholder would have been able to gain an effective controlling shareholding without needing to bid for either company.

Rolls shares closed 14p higher at 268.5p on the news while BAe shares ended the day 20p up at 1935p. BAe said the increase in the limit would give it all the flexibility it needed.

John Lewis staff get annual bonus bonanza thanks to windfall effect

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

STAFF at John Lewis Partnership are to enjoy their highest annual bonuses since the retail boom of the late 1980s, as the company announced a sharp increase in profits boosted by the competitiveness. effects of last year's building society windfalls.

Each of the 37,500 workers, from board level to the shop

£285,000 last year. The bonus es are the highest at John Lewis since the record year of 1989

en they reached 24 per cent. However, the company warned the retail climate would be more hostile this year with higher interest rates already pening consumer demand. "Squalls rather than windfalls [are] predicted for the year ahead," Mr Hampson said. He

floor, will receive a bonus of 22 ought to be neutral for per cent of salary, up from 20 per nmers for this reason. cent last year. This equates to John Lewis' pre-tax profits £1,760 for the group's shopfloor rose 15 per cent to £250m in the workers who typically earn year to January, helped by around £8,000 a year and strong sales of home furnish-£62,700 for Stuart Hampson, the ings as a result of the building chairman, who was paid society bonanza.

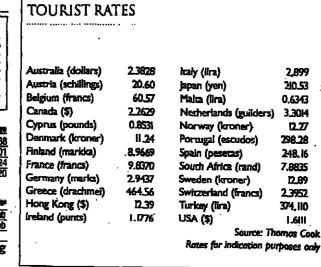
Pony pulls the plug on Premier League football sponsorship

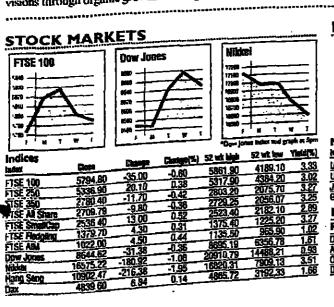
By Andrew Yates

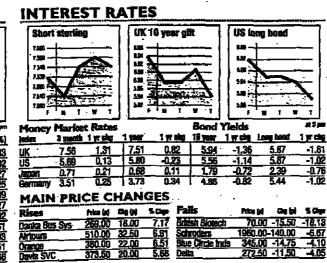
PREMIER LEAGUE football clubs Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham and Southampton will be forced to look for new kit sponsors after a decision by Pony, the sportswear firm, to withdraw from the sponsorship market. Pentland, the group which owns

the brand, has decided to exit the market after intense competition added that next week's budget caused a rapid inflation in sponsorship costs. It will honour existing contracts but will not seek to renew them. Teams such as Norwich, Oldham and Huddersfield will also be affected. Pentland is choosing to concentrate its investment on leading brands such as Ellesse, Speedo

mally mild weather. CURRENCIES OTHER INDICATORS







Nasdaq and Amex in merger talks

By David Usborne in New York

MORE usually accustomed to tracking the mergers and acquisitions of the worlds' corporations - and profiting from them - Wall Street found itself distracted by the prospect of a marriage altogether closer to home yesterday.

Nasdaq and the American Stock Exchange (Amex) confirmed they were in discussions about a merger that would better equip them to take on the and brash. Formed in 1971 by in 1996 to spend \$100m (£61m) might of the largest of the Wall Street markets, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

Details were not available. but the talks appeared to be at an advanced stage. Several obstacles remained, however. Both markets would have to persuade their own memberships to vote in favour of the

While a merger may offer logic in terms of challenging to

ing systems, histories and

The Amex dates back to kers of the last century and only moved indoors in 1921. Like the NYSE, it still trades on a floor carved a niche in derivatives.

Nasdaq, by contrast, is young the National Association of Securities Dealers, it trades via a computer-dealer network and by its brokers. has no actual trading floor. It high technology issues like Microsoft and Intel

merger would "combine the auction market with NASD's electronic market".

In recent years, the Amex in gether at \$9.4 trillion.

the overwhelmingly dominant particular has struggled to keep NYSE, it would also be one be- momentum. Its listings have falltween two starkly different trad- en in number from 1,004, 20 years ago, to 771 at the end of last year. Moreover, while the Amex trades an average of 24 the out-door curbstone bro- million shares a day, that compares with about half a billion for the NYSE.

In its 27 years, the Nasdaq through "open-cry" auction. It has grown furiously and sucremains best-known for energy cessfully built its image as home stocks, although recently it has to the hi-tech stocks. It has been wounded by regulatory problems, however, and was forced in upgrading its systems after an investigation into possible fraud

Even together, the Nasdaq has specialised in attracting and Amex will have trouble escaping the NYSE's shadow. The combined market value of In a statement, Amex said a the companies listed with them, for example, would tobest features of the Amex's tal about \$2 trillion. The NYSE, however, already has companies with valued to-



Reuters in strong denial of fraud claim

REUTERS yesterday rejected as "completely without foundation" fraud claims made by a Swiss software house in a New York lawsuit.

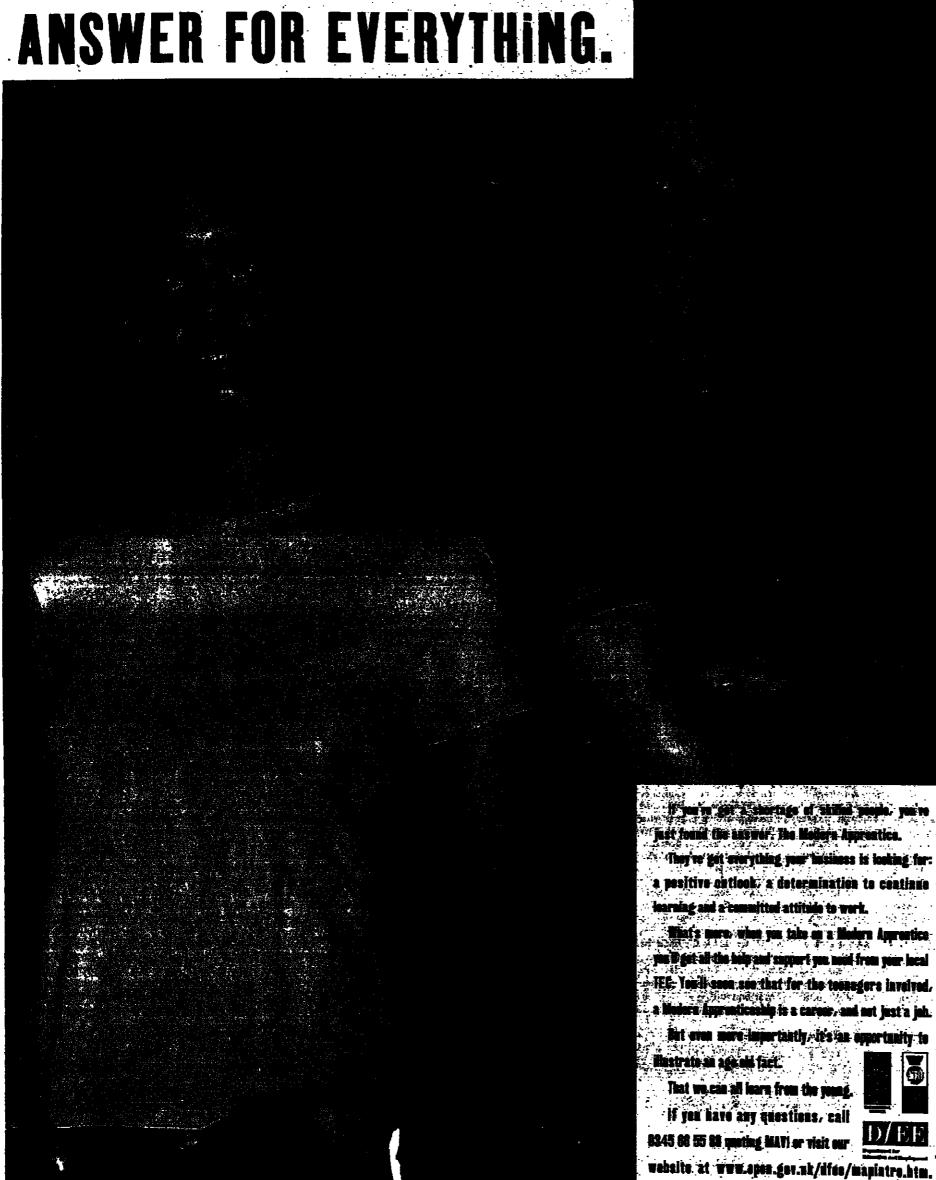
In a statement, Reuters said t received confirmation late on Wednesday of the suit filed by All-Media-Typlan AG in the US District Court against Reuters Ltd and Reuters America Inc.

"The dispute simply involves the interpretation of a complex 6: contractual situation, which has no substantive connection to Reuters America Inc or the United States," Reuters said.

News of the dispute comes just weeks after it emerged that a federal grand jury was investigating whether a unit of Reuters had stolen information

from Bloomberg.
It said the dispute involves two Typian contracts, one with Reuters Ltd. a UK corporation, which is governed by English law, and one with Reuters SA. a Swiss Corporation, which is governed by Swiss law.

KIDS. THEY'VE GOT AN



Legal & General shares fall as takeover rumours denied

Shares in Legal & General, the insurer, shed almost 3 per cent yesterday as the company poured cold water on recent takeover rumours. The stock closed at 658.5p, 19p down on the day. David Prosser, chief executive, said the management would defend the company's independence. He added that Legal & General was unlikely to attract bids because of its high share price. The insurer reported operating profits for the year to December of £350m, up 20 per cent, and towards the top end of City expectations. The dividend per share was increased by 14 per cent to 12.7 pence.

Banks 'need 3 years for EMU'

The Bank of England has made its first attempt to set out the implications for the retail banks of UK participation in Emu. In its quarterly report, Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro, the Bank says retail banks would need at least 3 years to develop systems capable of handling euro notes and coin. John Townend, deputy director at the Bank, said that fund management and insurance companies, previously chastised by the Bank for being insufficiently prepared for the euro, were beginning to make significant progress.

Big Six merger approved

The proposed merger between Big Six accounting firms Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse has been cleared by the US competition authorities - boosting the two organisations' hopes that the plan to create the world's largest professional services firm will soon be approved by the European Commission. The move comes just weeks after KPMG and Ernst & Young abandoned their plan to form an even larger practice citing regulatory problems as one of the reasons for not proceeding.

Airbus nets \$1.8bn orders

Airbus Industrie yesterday landed a further batch of orders worth \$3bn (£1.8bn). The Belgian carrier Sabena is buying 34 narrow-bodied A320 jets in a deal worth \$1.8bn while Swissair confirmed an order for nine of the new long-range Airbus A340-600 jets valued at \$1.3bn.

Rugby boost to BAA

The Scotland-France rugby international at Murrayfield helped boost passenger numbers at BAA's Edinburgh airport by 17 per cent last month. The group, which owns Heathrow and Gatwick, recorded a 6.7 per cent increase in overall traffic levels at its seven UK airports in February. The fastest growth was in the European charter market where passenger numbers rose 12.6 per cent year-on-year. Traffic levels on North Atlantic routes rose 11.7 per cent.

BA challenged on route

British Midland is to challenge British Airways monopoly over the London-Warsaw route later this month. The Civil Aviation Authority has agreed to hold an expedited hearing on 23 March into BM's application to start a service. BA and LOT, the Polish airline, operate a code-share agreement and carve up all capacity on the route between them.

Hollick looks to expand

United News & Media is seeking to expand its television interests internationally, the company said yesterday after unveiling a 17 per cent rise in underlying annual profit to £340.3m. Lord Hollick, the chief executive, said United was looking to develop content but would also aim to take stakes overseas to help secure distribution for its programming. United has extensive interests in television, owning three of the regional ITV franchises plus a stake in Channel 5, the national channel launched last March.

QPR 'still in Division One'

Chris Wright, chairman of Loftus Road, the parent company of Queens Park Rangers yesterday said he accepted that it now may not be possible for QPR to win promotion to the Premier League this season. The club would then face a third season in the Nationwide League Division One, and would no longer have the benefit of the Premier League "parachute payment" which is paid to relegated clubs for the first two seasons after their relegation from the Premier League. The benefit of this payment for the full year ending 31 May is expected to be in the region of £2.1m.

The rewards of success

Sandy Weill, chairman and chief executive of Travelers Group, the insurance giant which bought Salomon Brothers lust year, has collected one of the world's largest pay cheques. In 1997, Mr Weill collected \$270.1m (£163.7m). The total included £220.2m made by exercising stock options, and \$49.9m in total pay. Mr Weill's fat pay cheque reflects the fact that he built Travelers into the second largest US financial company in market value. Last year was "a year of outstanding accomplishments for the company", Travelers' compensation committee said. The company said it experienced continued strong internal growth, resulting in record operating earnings.

obacco bo -illons clai



OUTLOOK ON PENSIONS MIS-SELLING. **FOREIGN** OWNERSHIP AND CORPORATE TAX AVOIDANCE

Meeting the costs of pension mis-selling

25/BUSINESS

As the Government prepares to announce timate cost will be born largely by those a spanking new stakeholder pensions policy for the next millemium, the industry and its regulators are still struggling to come to terms with the mess left by the last attempt to reform the way people save for retirement. The Financial Services Authority yesterday estimated the eventual costs of the pensions mis selling fiasco at a staggering £11bn - more than double previous official estimates.

Ministers would do well to learn the lessons, for although blame for pensions mis selling lies largely with the industry and its over enthusiastic salesmen, a substantial part of the mischief is down to the government fiself and the direct encouragement it give to people to take out personal pensions. Given this level of culpability, the exchequer is perhaps lucky that it's not picking up at least a part of the tab. With ministers seriously considering the idea of introducing compulsion into saving through stakeholder pensions egged on as ever by the industry - the Treasury is going to find itself doubly liable this time round when it all goes horribly wrong.

Fortunately the new lot in Downing Street are able to blame incompetent Tories for the last great foul up (step forward John Major, the responsible minister at the DHSS when the government launched its campaign to convince us we would be better off with a personal pension). Equally fortunately for our cost conscious Chancellor, it is the industry that is picking up

Now for the bad bit. Unfortunately, as far as the rest of us are concerned, the ul-

who buy life assurance - through lower benefits on existing policies and higher charges on future ones. In mutually owned life companies, the whole cost is down to policyholders, since it is they who own the company. Even in a proprietary company, there appear to be no hard and fast rules on how the cost should be divided between policyholders and shareholders.

Most companies have provided something in their accounts against the priority cases already settled, but in nearly all tances the provisions are only a fraction of the total costs. The balance, we must assume, is met from the life fund. The present Government seems as incapable as the last of finding a satisfactory way of ring fencing policyholders from these costs and making shareholders and directors wholly liable for the scandal.

In essence, then, we end up with a tax to pay the compensation after all, albeit a hidden and random one. Ho burn.

Foreign ownership of Rolls and BAe

A classic piece of Whitehall fudge was served up yesterday in the shape of the raised ceilings on foreign shareholdings in British Aerospace and Rolls Royce, Having accepted the argument that the current 29.5 per cent limit was artificially distorting the market in the two shares, the logical course of action would have been to abolish the restrictions altogether.

This was BAe's preferred option. How-

of independence, went weak at the knees at the thought of Johnnie Foreigner acquiring a sizeable individual stake. It therefore stuck out for a lower limit on single foreign shareholdings.

The upshot is that while the ceiling on overall foreign shareholdings has been raised to 49.5 per cent, a new 15 per cent limit has been introduced for individual holdings. The limits are there to keep the two companies and their strategic defence technologies in British hands. Anyone who thinks it ought to be otherwise will be met by Margaret Beckett waving here Special

· / Do Rolls and BAe need such protection when neither GEC nor Vickers can resort to the same defence mechanism? BAe and Rolls might make and power the Tornado but half the fighting kit in the land is armed by GEC, while Vickers is the country's biggest, no its only, manufacturer of battle tanks.

Probably not, but then BAe and Rolls were once owned by the Government and, as is so often the case, ministers cannot quite let go altogether.

Even so, as time goes by it could prove a more and more awkward corner to fight. Protecting BAe from takeover, even from its European allies, at the same time as trying to engineer a consolidation of Europe's defence and aerospace industries looks like wanting to have your Eurofighter and eat

If either Rolls or BAe were ever to be taken over, then the bidder is much more likely to come from these shores. But never say never. Jaguar thought it was invio-

ever, Rolls, for all its muscular declarations late until Ford came along waving a fat cheque book and discovered that the then government's golden share was made of a baser metal altogether.

Tax avoidance and good citizenship

Here is an interesting proposition for the Chancellor from Ernst & Young, one of Britain's keenest practitioners of tax planning: abolish corporation tax. Since corporate tax is only a small fraction of the Government's total tax revenues, it's hardly worth the bother, the extra direct investment in the economy generated by abolishing it altogether would pay back the exchequer in spades. And, like Pitt's disastrous tax on windows, it just encourages silly behaviour. People bricked up their windows so as not to pay it; companies engage in equivalent, wasteful, forms of tax avoid-

Next week's Budget is exciting even more attention than usual from the accountancy profession because it is expected to crack down massively on avoidance. Using loopholes in the law to reduce liability to tax may be legal, but Gordon Brown, like all Chancellors, thinks it is wrong. The more those with resources at their disposal, whether companies or rich individuals, reduce their tax bills, the more the rest of us have to pay to fund the services provided by the government. What's more, it is not fair, and fairness in tax is a central political concern for

There are, of course, practical considerations that might limit ability to block clever avoidance schemes. Some measures might be too expensive to administer, or might clamp down on completely normal transactions along the way. It is fair to say that the Inland Revenue assumes the worst of everybody, and they are sometimes

If there is to be a clampdown on avoidance then the Chancellor should be concentrating primarily on companies rather than individuals. We might resent the fifthy rich getting away with clever schemes to pay less tax, but even if they all save a million or two, the amount foregone pales into insignificance compared to the sums by which some big companies manage to reduce their payments.

In an age when transparency has become a mantra for good governance, multinationals are getting away with murder, aided and abetted by the accountancy profession. As governments and institutions progressively open themselves up to public scrutiny and accountability, the modern day corporation remains one of the last great bastions of secrecy and obfuscation. No team of tax inspectors has a hope of getting to the bottom of what's going on in the affairs of those determined to practise rinky-dink tax avoidance.

Finance directors tend to defend tax avoidance by citing a fiduciary duty on behalf of shareholders to minimise tax. Such arguments only encourage governments into anti business policies. Solutions are hard to find but no government should give up the effort to enforce responsible corporate citizenship.

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Tobacco bootleggers costing millions claims Gallaher chief

By Andrew Yates

GALLAHER, the UK's biggest cigarette manufacturer, with leading brands such as Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut, yesterday warned that the tobacco bootlegging industry is now worth hundreds of millions of pounds a year.

Analysts estimate the explosion of illegal imports posts the in industry tens of millions, while the Government is losing up to £600m a year in lost tax.

Gallaher believes that bootleggers importing cheap cigarettes from Continental Europe now account for 3 per cent of the whole UK market, estimated to be worth more than £10bn a year. The group claims that the explosion in illegal importation of tobacco is the main reason behind a 4 per cent fall in the cigarette market in 1997.

The handrolling tobacco market has also been damaged by illegal imports which now account for three quarters of UK consumption. Bootleggers are importing tons of tobacco mainly from Belgium and Luxembourg

Peter Wilson, chairman and chief executive of Gallaher, yesterday surprisingly backed the principle of a voluntary ban of smoking at work or in public places. "I think it is a matter of common sense. If people can come together and make a decision then that it the right solution."

However, Gallaher joined BAT in denouncing Government research published earlier this week that passive smoking harms health and can kill. "I am saddened. This should be judged on science not emotion. They have not established there is any increase in risk from passive smoking," said Mr Wilson.



'Sink the smugglers': Peter Wilson, chairman and CEO of Gallaher Photograph: Kristian Buss

Gallaher, along with its main UK rival, Imperial Tobacco, faces the threat of litigation from lung cancer victims in the UK. The legal action comes in the wake of the US tobacco industry's decision to arrange a settlement with claimants in response to a stream of compensation claims.

However, Gallaher said vesterday that the group had no intention of compensating victims and would continue to fight them tooth and nail in the courts, "We have in place meritorious defences and continue to have faith in the British justice system. We will not be settling any cases," Mr Wilson

THE US TOBACCO INDUSTRY has mounted a multimillion pound advertising campaign across America designed to persuade the nation that its \$370bn (£225bn) compensation settlement for cigarette victims is a fair one. Brown & Williamson, the American arm of BAT, Philip Morris, RJR Nabisco and Lorillard, are funding the initiative in the hope that it will prompt the US Congress will vote through the deal. The move comes amid growing fears that Congress may demand harder linancial penalties from the industry. The advertisement says that the settlement will safeguard hundreds of thousands of jobs and claims it is crucially important to the industry and all of America.

said. Gallaher admitted that the proposed European wide ban on advertising and sponsorship would have a big impact on its business. However the group is confident it can circumvent the ban and maintain sales by increasing promotions in shops that sell cigarettes.

The Government is expected to announce another rise in tobacco duty next week, equivalent to around 20p for a packet of 20.

If the duty is imposed in the next few months then Gallaher admits it could prove a significant drain on profits. However it is hoping Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will not choose to impose the new duty until

Investment column, page 25

which has seen prices increase

rapidly in certain areas no-

tably.London and South-east

England over the last 18

market has still got growth to

come," be said, adding that

house sales were still below the

"We believe the housing

months.

CBI forges an unlikely green alliance

By Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

FORMING AN unlikely alliance, the Confederation of British Industry and Friends of the Earth yesterday declared themselves in favour of enviroamental taxes. Not surprisingly, the industrialists were more cautious than the green

pressure esamp.

Their statements came just days before a Budget in which Chancellor Gordon Brown is

pores will rise well above

thought that the tax break for company cars will be curbed. In a consultation paper,

the CBI said it had no objection in principle to eco-taxes or tradable permits - a system vet to be tried out in Britain in which companies are issued with permits entitling them to spew out a certain quantity of pollution.

They can then trade these permits between themselves at a price established in a free market. Companies which find vironment as efficiently and e

which do not The CBI says any extra rev- Earth unveiled radical budget promises."

be offset by cuts in other taxes on firms and households. It rejects the idea that pollution taxes are justified in order that taxes on employment and income should be cut. The prime reason for any eco-tax must be to curb a particular type of

enue raised by eco-taxes must

BP's chief economist, Professor Peter Davies, chair of the group which drew up the paper. said: "Business wishes to play its part in ensuring a clean en-

Meanwhile, Friends of the

pollution.

proposals including a 9 per cent rise in petrol duty and a tax on non-residential private car parking spaces which would raise £400m a year.

These and other taxes. along with cuts in the roads programme, would allow a big expansion in energy-saving measures for low-income and pensioner households and a 3per-cent cut in employers' National Insurance contribu-

FoE's director, Charles Semancellor's last chance to de-nver on his environmental

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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Hambro Countrywide admits danger

HAMBRO Countrywide yesterday admitted the that decision by Hambros ple - the banking group that owns 52 per cent of its shares - to distribute its stake among its own investors, had made the estate agency and financial services group a takeover target.

Harry Hill, Countrywide's managing director, said this would give the company the benefit of its shares having far greater liquidity than they had in the past and predicted an improved share price perfor-

mance in the short term. But he conceded the group would also be more exposed to takeovers as a result of the change in its shareholding base. He said there had been approaches during the period of

uncertainty about Hambros

Pic's future but there had been

thing that has ever become

takeover attempt.

Countrywide still harbours ambitions to grow its life assurance business through acquisition, but Mr Hill said prices were currently "rather more than we would like to pay" and the group would continue to be reactive on potential buys, with none in view.

His comments came as Countrywide reported record pre-tax profits of £52.7m for 1997 and said it was optimistic about the future.

To have made a million pounds a week is quite an achievement for a company that made a loss only a few years ago," Mr Hill said.

The profits for the year represented a 71 per cent increase on 1996 when the group reported profits of £30.8m. The group said its dividend for the from the housing market,

totally serious" in terms of a year would total 3p, a rise of 50 per cent on 1996. Mr Hill said the group had

"neither the need or desire" to raise any extra capital for the time being, although he conceded this would now be an easier process without Hambros as the dominant shareholder. Only 25 per cent of Coun-

trywide's business is now selling houses, with half made up of life assurance and the remaining 25 per cent its surveying services. Mr Hill said that as Countrywide's recently launched

ness from the traditional estate agency role of selling homes will fall further. But despite a slight slowing in last quarter of 1997 Mr Hill said he still saw more growth

conveyancing service increased

in profit, the balance of busi-

18-year average. Countrywide had seen the average price of houses it sold rise to more than £80,000 in February and Mr Hill predicted it would be above this level for the year as a whole. The average house price in 1997 was

up 15.9 per cent to £73,576.

Mr Hill said there would be

a much broader based recovery in the market than in 1997, with London and the South East losing some momentum.

- London and the Southeast will be a touch less fierce." he said.

Big game hunt lifts Liberty International

MARKET REPORT



South African-controlled financial group, jumped 28.5p to a 606p peak as the stock market latched on to ambi-

hunting for a significant ac- too high. quisition. Last month it recruited Jim Sutcliffe, once tipped as a potential chief executive of Prudential Corpobrief is to develop the company into a major financial services

Liberty, with a capitalisato more than £3bn to stand any reaching new highs. chance of becoming a Footsie

raised £527m selling its half to 49.5 per cent. share in the then Sun Holdings

LIBERTY International, the major assets is 71.9 per cent of Capital Shopping Centres, firm at 451.5p.

Donald Gordon Liberty, it is tious plans which could elevate thought likely to concentrate Reuters is under investigathe shares to Footsie mem- its takeover fire power on overseas acquisitions. It be-The company, it seems, is lieves prices in this country are

> Footsie's four-day winning index giving up 35 points to 5,794.8. An uncertain New and the shadow of next week's Budget prompted the retreat. But, once again, supporting shares were buoyant with the

British Aerospace, up 20p at 1,935p, and Rolls-Royce, 14p The company, where South to 268.5p, responded to the ex-African interests have 69 per pected Government decision cent. has £2.5bn in finance to lift the restriction on foreign available for acquisitions. It held shares from 29.5 per cent But sterling's renewed

National Grid, as HSBC

Reuters, off 26p to 638p, was hit by another legal assault with a Swiss group registering Headed by the legendary a suit against the information

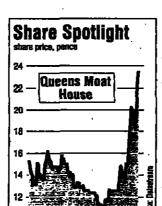
group in the US. Already tion in the US after rivals Bloomberg alleged its products had been improperly obtained and used by Reuters. The Swiss allegations "are comcanter came to an end with the pletely without foundation",

said the news group. Compass, the caterer, rose ration, as deputy chairman. His York opening, profit taking 8p to 958p on its Footsie arrival and revived hopes of Rentokil Initial bid interest. Relegated Dixons feli 2.5p to 489p and Misys, the computtion of £1.7bn, needs to grow mid and SmallCap indices er group which just missed out on Footsie membership. gained 112.5p to 2,727.5p.

Among the buoyant second liners Airtours climbed 32.5p to 510p and drugs group Galen added 24p to 495.5p. strength hurt engineers with Glynwed International, off

aged by the suspension of An-mal institutional meetings. drew Miller, director of clinical research, falling 15.5p FC approach, was at one time

to 70p, lowest since 1995. MFI Furniture slipped 3.5p of its institutional investors. Schroders, had demanded a dismal trading. A spokesman said chairman Derek Hunt



Wembley, on the Arsenal gain to £2,300.

meeting because of the chain's chinery group, produced loss-shares advanced 43p to es and another warning, falling 208.5p; Westbury slipped 4.5p 20p to 285p.

Oil services groups Abbot Abbot, which could have lifted progress is expected this year. profits from £7.4m to nearer peak. Expro jumped 32p to

Newcomer Pennant International, a maker of computer-based training systems, moved to 142.5p from a 125p of May.

WML, the old Whinney Mackay Lewis architect group,

British Biotech was rav- was engaged in a range of nor- shares were placed at 30p following the acquisitions of two

property related companies. Housebuilders were given up 41p. The shares closed at a lift by the takeover bid for 364.5p, 14p higher. On Ofex, John Maunders by rival Westto 89p. It denied reports one Arsenal shares scored a £100 bury. The agreed cash and shares offer priced Maun-Molin, the cigarette maders at £55m. The target's

> to 272p. North Midlands Conand Expro International were struction put on 13p to 98.5p. strong on talk of US bid action a peak, after a profit surge as well as encouraging trading. from £1.4m to £2.2m. Further

> Emerald Energy, seeking £14m, gained 6p to 192.5p, a oil and gas in Colombia, held at 7.25p after raising £3.4m by placing shares at 6.75p. The cash is needed because of further delays at its Chawina 2 site; its expects to move to its arrived on AIM; the price Matambo field by the middle

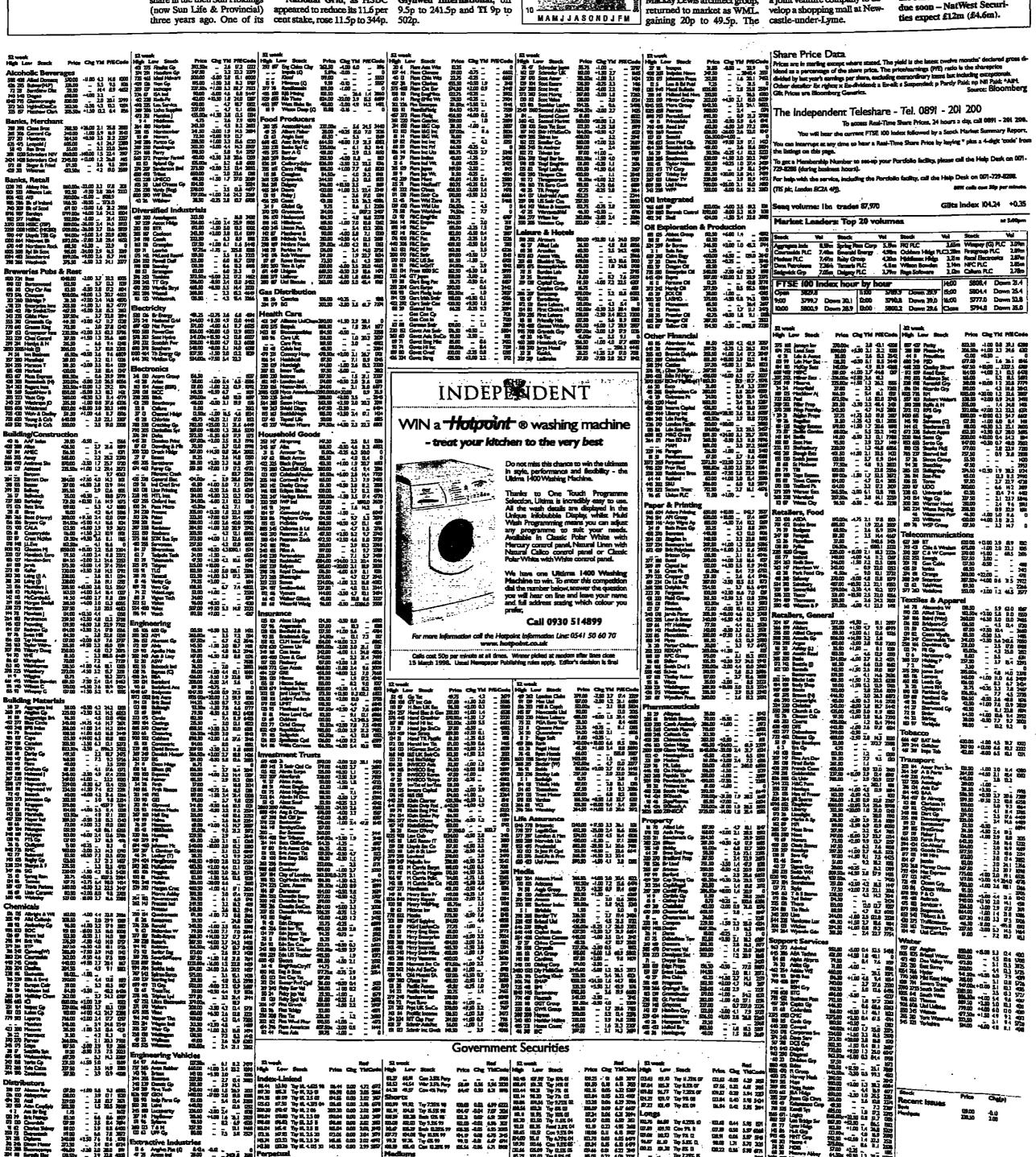
Freeport Leisure climbed 13.5p to 352p. It has formed a joint venture company to deTAKING STOCK

Fariake, a fund manager with £270m under its control. jumped 55p to 255p. Two new shareholders have climbed on board. They are EMS Capital, a US-backed investment company, and Derwent, a business thought to be related to David Rowland, the Monaco-based property entrepreneur. His last quoted play was Iuoco, a property group. EMS has acquired 25.4 per cent from stockbroker Hichens Harrison and Derwent seems to have picked up 14.9 per cent through the market. Fariake shares reached 475p two years ago. They were hit when managing director Peter Leonard departed to form Integrated Asset Management, suspended at 130p.

Queens Moat Houses, the struggling hotel chain which almost came to grief in 1993, climbed to a two-year high, up 0.75p to 23.25p. There is talk of overseas buying. Profits of the still debt-laden group are due soon - NatWest Securi-

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Challenging time for UB's sales line

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UNITED Biscuits has proved a dismal investment over the past five years, but the company was expressing confidence yesterday that it is now turning the corner. It has cleared out disasters like the Keebler business in America and last November it conducted a £241m asset swap with PepsiCo under which it sold its French and Australian snacks operations in return for PepsiCo's French biscuit business. The deal has enabled United Biscuits to return £150m to shareholders which will be effected by the issue of "B" shares that will then be bought back.

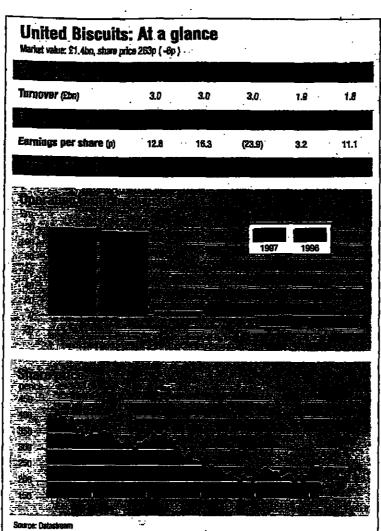
UB's pruned portfolio is now organised into two divisions - the McVities biscuits business and UK foods which takes in snacks, chilled and frozen foods. The plan is to concentrate more on its core banded products like Penguin, Hula Hoops and Skips as well as its new Go Ahead range of low-fat snacks and less on own label goods supplied to the supermarkets.

Management seems more focused on shareholder value. It has cut costs and concentrated on building margins which rose by a full percentage point last year. The challenge now is to build the sales line which didn't budge at all in any of the divisions last year.

This is promising much, but the City is not sure management can deliver. Pre-tax profits before exceptionals fell by 3 per cent to £106.2m last year though UB says this was due to the decline in businesses now discontinued. ly valued. The shares fell 6p to 263p But in the UK, which is UB's main market by some distance, sales were flat even after stripping out lower exports forward rating of 16 and yield almost because of the strong pound and £12m five per cent. Given the scale of the from the sales of businesses. Howev- challenge that looks high enough. er, management has drawn some comfort from achieving sales growth of around 5 per cent in the last quarter Life not so bad of last year and the first two months of this one.

Delivering longer term sales growth will test UB's marketing skills and will be made more difficult given the cut- HAVING been jilted at the altar by

and with gearing halved to 17 per cent its own Reed is no weakling. it could afford more share buy-backs, That said, by failing to close the deal



yesterday and assuming full-year profits of £120m this year, they trade on a

for Reed after all

throat market in which UB operates. Wolters Kluwer, Reed Elsevier was Eric Nicoli, the company's long-stantly yesterday making out that single life isn't ing chief executive, says regional dom- so bad after all. To a certain extent, it's inance is much more important than right. Although the £18bn marriage global scale, but the fact remains that would have created a powerful in-UB is a £1.4bn company up against huge ternational publishing group, with nearcompetitors like PepsiCo and Nestlé. monopolies in key areas such as It is looking at bolt-on acquisitions scientific and legal publishing, even on

but the strong run of the last two Reed is missing out on tens of millions ings growth looks fairly ordinary for now sits on an unjustified premium to months now has the shares looking ful- of pounds worth of "synergies" - code what is supposed to be an rapidly ex- rival Imperial Tobacco. High enough.

a result of hefty restructuring after Reed uncovered circulation irregularities in the US. Repaying advertisers for overcharging and writing down the value of the business prompted an exceptional writeoff of £401m - as Reed had already

panding media business. Much of the

blame falls on the Travel Group, which

reported a 20 per cent fall in profits as

The Travel Group is unlikely to improve much this year. The other parts of the business should continue to forge ahead. Having raised £860m from the sale of its consumer magazines Reed. with net cash on the balance sheet, has plenty of firepower to make acquisitions. Based on the existing businesses alone, however, growth prosects don't exactly set the pulse racing. Brokers forecast profits of £855m, which puts shares in Reed International, Reed Elsevier's UK parent, on a forward p/e ratio of 21. High enough for now.

Gallaher full of Eastern promise

WHATEVER you think about the ethics of tobacco companies they make a packet. Gallaher, Britain's biggest cigarette supplier which produces best-selling brands such as Benson & Hedges and Silk Out, announced an 11 per cent in pre-tax profits to £337m yesterday. But can it keep growing at this sort of rate?

The UK market is declining at 4 per cent a year, mainly due to bootleggers for its ability to squeeze prices for key who are costing the industry dear. Toproducts even higher. An independent bacco duty is rising relentlessly which, Wolters means more competition in although it has not yet had a significant some of Reed's markets and another impact on demand, must eventually hit potential bidder driving up the price of sales. And it has seen the emergence of cheap discounted brands which will Of course, this is no different from lead to a fall in industry margins. Galthe position Reed was in before it anlaher has been able to offset this by cutnounced the merger. So has the fall in ting costs but it cannot go on doing so its share price - the shares yesterday fell for ever. Throw in the European by another 6.5p to 610.5p and are now Union's decision to ban tobacco advertising and the threat of legal action down 15 per cent from their high in earfrom cancer victims and the prospects Well, perhaps. Adjusting for the for the mature UK market look poor.

That means the key to Gallaher's sucstrength of sterling and other exceptional items, yesterday's figures showed cess will be its expansion into overseas Reed Elsevier's pre-tax profit rising by markets, particularly Eastern Europe and Asia, which are growing rapidly.

The shares, which rose 13p to 363p 10 per cent to £823m in 1997. Howev-

er, this includes acquisitions and doesn't count the expense of defusing the Milare sitting on a prospective PE ratio of lennium time bomb. That cost Reed 12 which looks flat. Gallaber should con-£11m last year, and the total bill is liketime to prove to be a reliable performer. However, after a sharp rise in the Adjust for these factors, and earn- group's value in recent months the stock

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



HOWARD Hodgson, the former king of British undertakers and ex-boss of Rouson, has been appointed chief executive of a cigarette lighter mamufacturer which was recently bought out of liquidation by its American af-

The trading subsidiaries of Colibri of London were put into liquidation last month. Now Colibri Corporation of America, a separate company that broke off from the UK business over 30 years ago, has bought Colibri of London and appointed Mr Hodgson boss of a new company, Colibri Corporation Limited.

Colibri owns a number of trademarks to lighter and pen designs, and its turnover in the US is over \$90 million.

Fred Levinger, President of the US company, said: "We intend to finance and support the new international entity... so that it achieves a prominent place in the market."

"From a marketing perspective, we look forward to the obvious synergies of a united brand name."

LONRHO continues its transformation into a club for South African tycoons with the appointment of Sir Alastair Morton as a nonexecutive director.

Sir Alastair, the man who got Eurotunnel dug, grew up in South Africa before getting a scholarship to Oxford University.

Although his nationality is English and his father was a Scottish oil engineer, Sir Alastair will no doubt feel at home with the other South Africans on the Lonrho board, chairman Sir John Craven, and mining director Terence Wilkinson.

Sir Alastair spent his first four working years at De Beers and Anglo American in South Africa, before moving to the World Bank. He is currently, amongst many other things, an adviser to the vice chancellor of the University of Cambridge and chairman of the National Youth Orchestra.

BEAUFORD, a manufacturer of ceramics based in Leeds, has appointed a new chief executive to replace Edward Duke, who has reAlliance. Obviously Mr Duke couldn't spend his time leading marches to London and put in a full working week at the office, so he has switched to a non-executive role at the com-

The new chief executive of Beauford is Clive Gilham, a chartered accountant who has been finance director of the company since

Mr Duke joined the board of Beauford in 1991 when it was in the red and being nursed along by its banks. During his time at the helm. the company was refinanced, 12 engineering subsidiaries were closed or sold and three industrial and ceramics companies bought, repositioning the business as a specialist ceramics maker.

Lets hope Mr Duke can do a similar good job at the Countryside Alliance, although I think with its disparate make-up of fox hunters, green-belters and horny-handed sons of toil the Alliance might be a tougher proposition.

BILL Harrison, the former head of BZW. started at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell 10 days ago as head of corporate advisory, with the additional role of integrating corporate banking and investment banking business, a process that will cost thousands of job losses worldwide.

Back in 1996 Mr Harrison trousered three million pounds from BZW, causing gasps even in the highly-paid parlours of the City.

Yet a naughty little bird whispers in my ear that Mr Harrison's pay-off when he left BZW last autumn, following Barclays' decision to sell most of its investment bank, "barely climbed into seven figures."

Poor chap. Lets hope Deutsche make up for this fallow year.

KEN Bates, chairman of Chelsea, is not a man to cross lightly. Indeed Mr Bates's reputation is so fierce that his fellow directors take great care what they say when they're in his pres-

For instance Alan Shaw, Chelsea's company secretary, told journalists as he started the annual results presentation at Stamford Bridge yesterday: "The good news is that Michael Russell [finance director] and myself are here to take your questions. The bad news is that Ken Bates isn't here, but he will be available to talk to you at lunch."

Such respect. No wonder Mr Bates is known as "The Godfather of Stamford

WHAT'S a "Reusable Transit Package?" CK Chow, chief executive of GKN, has the answer: Its the plastic version of a cardboard

Mr Chow reckons the RTP has "enormous potential" to replace the humble cardboard model, since the former is more robust and environmentally sensitive, being reusable.

GKN is already supplying such things to Asda and is talking to four supermarket chains in France and Spain.

Sales of RTPs could eventually reach £1bn for each continent of the world, and GKN

Housebuilding shares boom in wake of takeover

SHARES in the house-building be entitled to an interim divisector rose sharply yesterday af- dend of 2.6p per share for the ter an agreed £55m takeover deal excited the market. John Maunders Group, the residential property development company, announced it had agreed to a recommended bid from housebuilding company Westbury to strengthen its market share in the south of England and extend into the North-

The bid for Maunders, which builds residential homes, follows Westbury's 1996 takeover of Clarke Homes and is part of a consolidation movement by homebuilders seeking larger land holdings during a period of rapid construction growth.

"The board of Westbury believes that the acquisition provides an excellent opportunity for Westbury to take a significant step forward in its growth plans and will also further raise Westbury's market and land buying profile," the company said in a statement.

The offer will be made on the basis of 2.7 shares and £14.72 in eash for every 10 Maunders shares valuing each Maunders share at around 219p a share. Maunders shareholders will

the luxury car dealership that

floated on the stock market in

December, saw profits acceler-

are three-fold in its last year as

profit of £7.97m in 1997, a

198-per-cent increase on the

12.67m it made in the previous

year. Underlying profits, ex-

cluding an exceptional £1.37m

profit on the disposal of a free-

hold property, grew 147 per

said trading had started well so

far this year, adding: "Results

Frank Symer, the chairman,

The group made a pre-tax

a private company.

cent to £5.6m.

Sytner profits up threefold

PROFITS at Symer Group, are currently ahead of our in-

holders.

in year before flotation

financial year to 30 June.

The offer represents a 32 per cent premium over Maunders' share price of 165.5p at close of trading on Wednesday night. Yesterday, the shares were marked up 43p or 26 per cent to close at 208.5p. Westbury lost 4.5p to 272p.

The bid sparked enthusiasm for housebuilders' stocks with Bryant Group rising 5p to 154.5p, Barratt Developments up 7.5p to 284p, Beazer group ahead 6.5p to 217p and Berke-ley Group gaining 10.5p to

Westbury said in a statement that it would raise £34.7m, net of expenses, through a one-forsix rights issue of 15.08 million shares at 235p per share. The rights issue has been underwritten by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson with Panmure Gordon as its brokers. Dealings in the issue will start on or around 19

The merged operations of Westbury and John Maunders is expected to deliver cost savings of around £2.5m in a full year. Exceptional reorganisation costs would be £1.5m in the first year.

ternal budgets and the

prospects for the remainder of

the year continue to be en-

couraging. We remain com-

mitted to growth in partnership with great marques and to de-

livering value to our share-

business by acquisition but only

when we can do this prudently

and when our stringent invest-

marques and to delivering val-

ment criteria can be met....

ue to our shareholders."

"We will continue to grow our

We remain committed to growth in partnership with great

Molins operations hit by demand downturn

ly to reach £75m.

acquisition targets.

ly March - now accounted for that?

reported a sharp drop in operficult - its sixth warning in the space of a year. The news sent Asian markets. shares in the firm skidding 20p, or 7 per cent, lower to 285p by

the close of dealing. Michael Orr, Molins chairman, said: "Substantial cost reductions have already been made in an effort to underpin line remaining strong, we will do well to achieve improved operating results in the current

The group fell into a pre-tax loss of £20.1m for 1997 compared with a profit of £33.4m in 1996. Operating profit before exceptional charges was £13.1m compared with £38.3m. It also said it could not rule

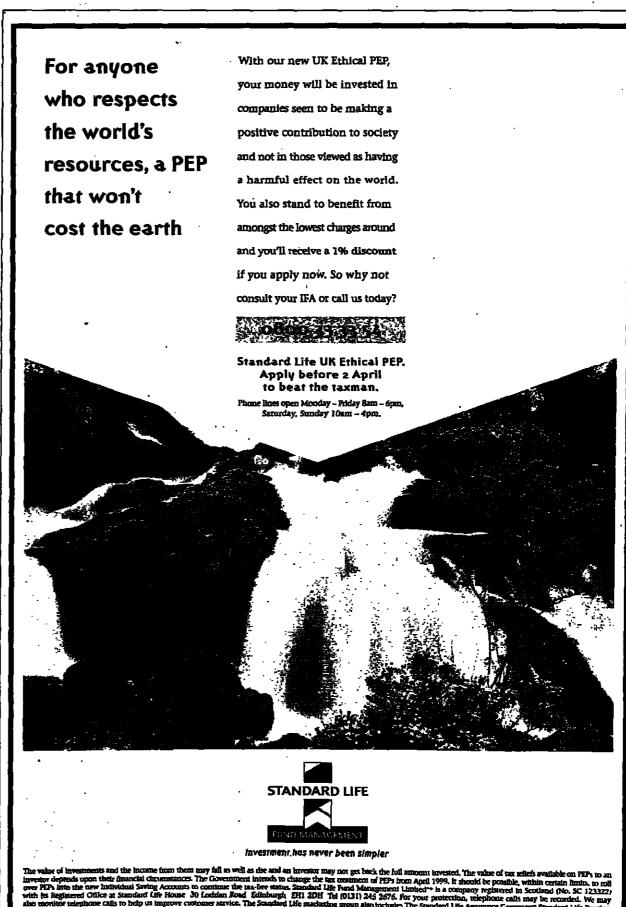
MOLINS, the troubled tobac- out a further reduction in caco machinery maker, yesterday pacity at its tobacco machinery division following the compaating profits and warned that the sty's decision in November to current year would also be dif- cut 500 jobs at the division because of slower orders from

Molins blamed the profit downturn on a sharp reduction in demand at its tobacco machinery division and the consequent restructuring. The group took a charge of £31.1m in the 1997 accounts, some £17.9m for profitability. Even so, with ster- restructuring and £13.4m for accounting irregularities.

As a result of the downturn the group cut its final dividend yment to 8.5p per share from .5p in the previous year.

Although Molins does not rule out a further reduction capacity, it expects its tobacco machinery division to remain profitable subject to further exceptional costs.

COMPANY RESULTS					
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend	
Anta & Lucky (F)	151.4m (146.8m)	11.3m (10.1m)	21.1p (19.4p)	7.7p	
British Mokair (F)	42.0m (44.2m)	0.480m (0.869m)	3.29p (4.42p)	4.0p (5.5p)	
Cospé (F)	243.2m (242.6m)	8.9m (-13.2m)	11.5p (-24.7p)	6.5р	
Chelson Village (I)	38.6m (10.4m)	.0.190m (-0.404m)	0.12p (+0.27p)	nì .	
Coults Consulting (F)	32.2m (34.5m)	8.46m (3,04m)	-20,21p (2,78p)	0.1p (2.3p)	
Davis Science (F)	407.7m (\$43.9m)	44.3m (32.1m)	21.04p (18.9p)	11.3p (10.3p)	
Elect (i)	14.7m (13.9m)	0.573m (-1.56m)	-1.5p (-4.4p)	ď	
Callabor (F)	4.41bn (4.87bn)	337.2m (301.9m)	35.2p (32.6p)	19.25p	
GROW (F)	3,38bn (3,33bn)	408.0m (93.0m)	78.4p (-12.0p)	d .	
Hambre Countrywide (F)	247.5m (200.4m)	52.Bru (30.8m)	15.5p (8.42p)	3.0p (2.0p)	
Hangser (F)	19.9m (8.5m)	1.85m (0.857m)	9.9p (11.7p)	1.0p (nll)	
Kier Group (1)	336.2m (337.6m)	3.9cm (3.1m)	8.2p (6.7p)	2.Bp (n#)	
Logal & General (F)	- (-)	349.6m (291,4m)	19.9p (16.6p)	12.7p (11.1p)	
John Meistiders (1)	42.6m (37.3m)	3.40m (3.10m)	9.21p (8.29pj	2.60p (2.60p)	
Mollas (F)	254.8m (306.2m)	-20.1m (33.4m)	-58.9p (72.8p)	15.0p (22.0p)	
John Marriam (P)	1.40bn (1.40bn)	-12.4m (16.7m)	-12.6p (8.1p)	4.0p	
HTTL toskrepakits (F)	42.2m (41.6m)	5.12m (4.62m)	17.4p (15.7p)	5.5p (6.0p)	
Jardinel Loyd Thomp's (F)	225.8m (228.0m)	20.7m (32.96m)	1.7p (9.4p)	13.25p	
Orange (F)		-139.0m (-229.0m	112.0p (21.0p)	nž	
Peoplex Emergy (I)	10.52m (13.3m)	1,89m (-14.8m)	0.37p (-4.45p)	牒	
Peathod (F)	755.2m (\$89.6m)	41.6m (-3.8m)	6.92p (5.25p)	3.68p	
Rockitt & Colemna (F)	2.20bn (2.32bn)	302.5m (334.6m)	53,1p (57.7p)	24.0p (21.97p)	
Stair Energy (I)	-(-)	-0.187m (-0.32m)	0.07p (-0.03p)	14	
Skypherma (F)	13.8m (11.1m)	-17.7m (14.6m)	-5.1p (B.Sp)	怕	
Talement (F)	119.0m (117.0m)	4.88m (-6.93m)	4.6p (1.5p)	1.450	
Tabory Doughts(1)	523.6m (478.7m)	22.34m (19.03m)	18.2p (15.4p)	9.6¢ (8.2p)	
Treats Group (F)	22.61m (22.29m)	0.938m (1,41m)	7.0p (8.8p)	2.0p (5.0p)	
United Bleests (F)	1,77bs (1,98bs)	90.441 (24.441)	11.1p (3.2p)	10.5p	
United Industries (F)	37,88m (49.97m)	3.65m (-0.446m)	6.93p (-1.68p)	26p (2.40p)	
Dallad News & Media (5)	2.27ba (1.99ba)	373.0m (233.8m)	56.1p (31.1p)	24.Op	
(F) - Fibral (I) - Indexion					



op on-cc Anti-tax avoidance measures seem certain to feature in next week's Budget. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, outlines the Government's options

Tax avoiders braced for a crackdown from the Chancellor

FOR ONE of Britain's thriving industries, the past nine months have been the boom before the bust. Ever since Gordon Brown announced his intention to crack down on tax avoidance in his first Budget last July, the tax planning business has been in overdrive.

As The Independent revealed yesterday, the very rich have been flocking to take advantage of so-called "private" authorised unit trusts as a means of controlling the timing of the capital gains from their investments.

Every Budget brings a handful of measures closing loopholes that the Inland Revenue reckons have become too popular by half. In November 1996 Kenneth Clarke introduced his "spend to save" programme, hiring 2,000 extra Inland Revenue staff in order to net around £2bu in revevaded the coffers of the Ex-

However, Mr Brown went further, saying the Inland Revenue would carry out a wide ranging review to identify the most significant areas of tax payments they can negotiate. Chancellor appears to think of as leakage. And in November he signalled an intention to introduce eventually general antiavoidance legislation rather than just ruling out specific plays in each Budget.

Not surprisingly, then, the past few months have seen a rush on the part of both well-off individuals and companies to get all their "tax planning" in ahead of the Chancellor's speech on

David Williams, of Londonbased accountants Smith and Williamson, said: "The Chanown pre-announcement of how concerned he is about this."

Accountants claim that past crackdowns mean there are no glaring loopholes left. Yet avoidance - as distinct from evasion, which is illegal non-payment of tax - is still estimated to cost billions of pounds in lost revenues ly for their impact on Geoffrey

One favoured method of re- eral, who was criticised in the full April-to-March financial year overseas. In that case, any income or capital gains are liable to being taxed abroad rather than the UK, so a sensible choice of one country to another can keep tax bills to a minimum.

One of the best-known examples was Dave Clarke, the 1960s pop star who subsequently became an entrepreneur. Musicians have always been prominent amongst those favouring stays in low tax places like Ireland and the Channel Islands.

According to John Whiting, head of tax at Price Waterhouse: "There are still people leaving the country to avoid capital gains tax. We could see tightening up in the rules about coming and going." enues that would otherwise have He adds, though, that people do also go abroad for all kinds of good reasons.

He also points out that the tax authorities in other countries are rich, and settle for whatever tax The Inland Revenue takes a tougher line, which results in some rich taxpayers leaving the country - as Andrew Lloyd Webber and Paul Daniels famously threatened before Labour won

are still quite widely used. Some expected to go, such as retirement relief, which allows executives over 50 who sell shares in their company to pay a reduced rate when they retire; or reincellor has been a victim of his vestment relief, where capital gains are exempt from tax if they are invested in another going

But the highest profile will have to be the measures the Chancellor takes to restrict the use of trusts, which the Opposition will be scrutinising careful-Robinson, the Paymaster Gen-

ducing tax liability is to spend a House of Commons for benefiting from an offshore trust.

The big crackdown on these trusts, based in places such as Guernsey and Jersey, occurred in 1991, and it is now difficult for location or clever moves from UK residents to gain any tax advantage from them. Last week Mr Brown acted to close one of the remaining small loopholes available to the beneficiaries of older offshore trusts.

However, many of the rich still use UK-based trusts as a tax efficient way to spread their assets. The catch here is that lots of middle class grandparents use them too, as a sensible way of passing on their money.

Peter Wyman, head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand, says: "There are a million reasons why people set up trusts, only one of which is tax avoidance. The revenue authorities have become paranoid."

Elspeth May, an expert on personal tax at KPMG, agrees: "A lot prepared to do deals with the of the things that we would consider legitimate tax planning, the tax avoidance."

The real concern of the accountancy profession, however, is the introduction of general anti-avoidance legislation. This could only work with a system of gaining advance clearance for Experts can list a few other proposed transactions, they specific avoidance schemes that argue. Otherwise nobody could be sure of not having their fireliefs from capital gains tax are nancial arrangements retrospectively attacked by the Inland Revenue or Customs & Excise.

> But tax experts fear that this would be combersome because of Inland Revenue understaffing, and would give tax inspectors disturbingly wide powers to judge citizens' behaviour.

> At the heart of their concerns is a different philosophy about tax. Where the tax authorities assume that the money is really theirs, the financial advisers believe it is really their clients', the people who have generated the wealth in the first place.



EVEN IF Gordon Brown had not already pledged to crack down on clever tax avoidance schemes in the Budget, the furore over an offshore family trust benefiting Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General and a close ally of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would have made it inevitable. Mr Robinson is a discretionary beneficiary of a Guernsey-based trust set up by a wealthy Belgian businesswoman, Joska Bourgeois, for the Robinson family. The offshore Orion Trust bought shares in TransTec, the engineering business Mr

Robinson built up, and in Coventry City football club. Mr Robinson said he had not controlled or influenced these decisions, and dismissed allegations of wrong-doing as 'smears and mud'. He also pointed out that he had paid about £1.4m in UK taxes over five years. However, the storm means Mr Brown could not possibly seem to backpedal on his tough talk about a clampdown on tax leakage. Tuesday is expected to bring a draft of specific measures along with a draft general anti-avoidance proposal for consultation.

TAX LOOPHOLES, OLD AND NEW

Payment in gold bars, coffee beans or other commodities, avoiding income tax and national insurance contributions - outlawed in November

Other benefits in kind in place of salary. For example, private use of a mobile telephone provided by employer - taxed as a perk worth £200 a year from April 1991.

Salary payment in the form of the transfer of the right to be repaid a debt owed by customers. Employees got cash when the debt was settled without liability to PAYE—abolished July 1997.

The Business Expansion Scheme, offering tax relief for investment in new businesses, introduced 1981 restricted to £500,000 a year in 1988, and abolished at the end of 1993. Replaced by Enterprise Investment Scheme giving 20 per cent tax relief to investors in unquoted trading companies.

Turning your company into an empty shell with just a bit of cash and a lot of unpaid tax, putting the profitable business into a new company. Owners sold the shell to a new owner who took the cash and was not liable for the tax - abolished July 1997.

Going ...

Set up a "private" authorised unit trust to postpone capital gains tax on investments until the most convenient date - such as a year you'll be spending abroad. Technically, these have to be open to other investors, but it is easy to put people off with a very high minimum investment and management fee.

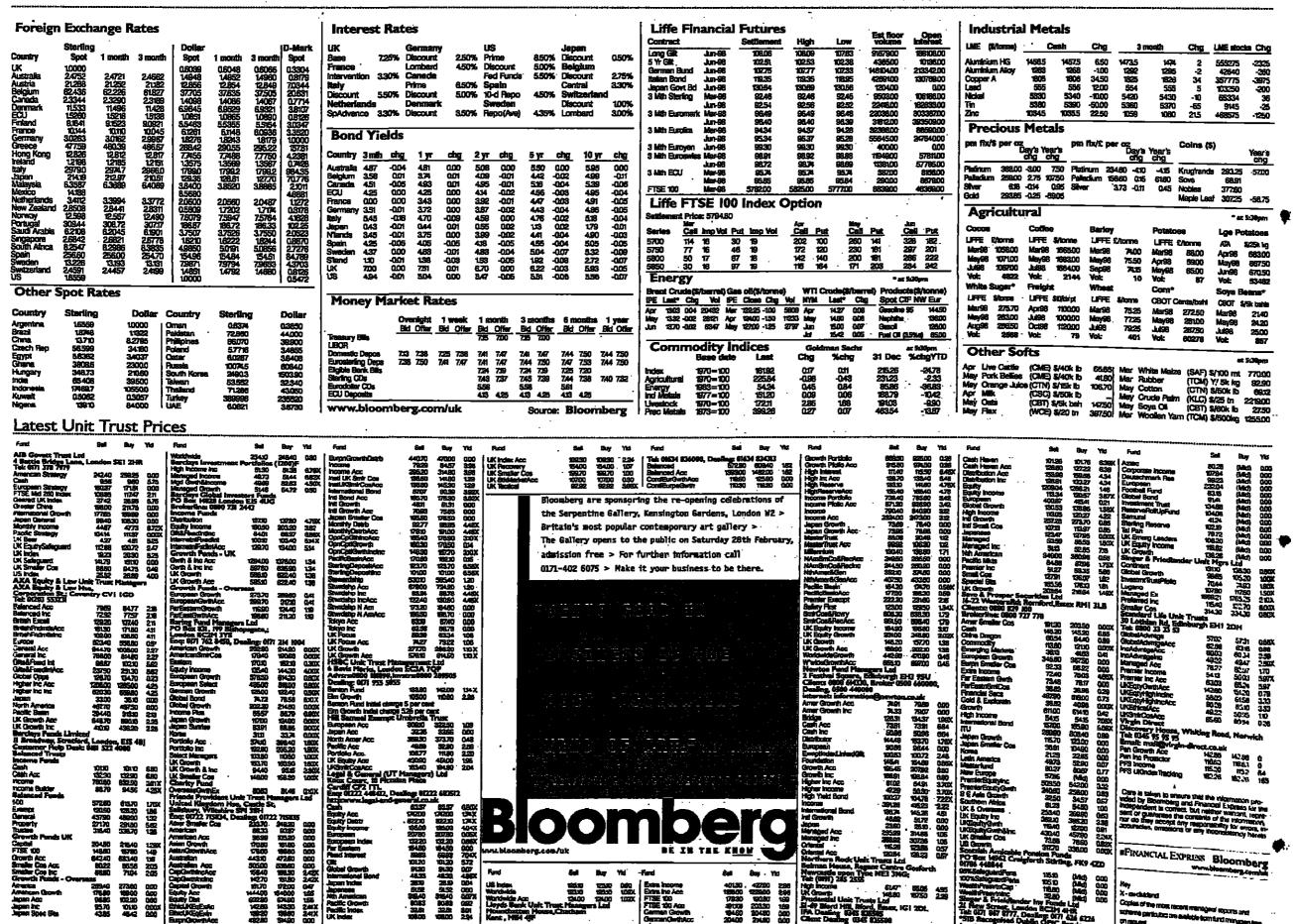
Spending a financial year abroad is still a favoured method of avoiding particularly heavy tax liabilities due at a particular time. Those working full-time overseas for a full | April -3| March year do not pay UK tax, although they may liable to pay tax elsewhere. But by either choosing a country of temporary abode carefully, or by travelling enough, tax can be minimised.

Otherwise, live in a tax haven permanently.

Get rid of your company car, which has become an increasingly beavily taxed perk. Instead, persuade your employer to pay you a tax-free mileage allowance for a car you lease from a 'Structured Employee Gar Ownership Plan'.

Create a non-beneficial trust for your spouse or children. It safeguards some of your assets and is subject to a less onerous tax regime.

Take advantage of 'retirement relief' from capital gains čax, paying a lower rate when you leave your own company. Or reinvest a gain tax-free in inquoted shares in another business. Re-investing in a farm has been a popular choice for people taking advantage of this relief.



Revoked permit fails to stop on-course bookie

Exclusive

By Greg Wood

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A BOOKMAKER whose betting permit was revoked almost two years ago has been laying bets on the rails ever since, and is expected to be doing so again at the Cheltenham Festival next week.

Slough Crown Court decided on 3 April 1996 that John Henwood, 49, was not "a fit and proper person" to hold a betting permit, but he has continued to an on-course bookmaker. trade on British tracks using a permit issued by Ealing magistrates court to a company of which he is sole director. It is a Association of Bookmakers, alsituation of which the National Association of Bookmakers (NAB) and the Racecourse Association (RCA) are fully aware and which appears acceptable under their rules.

Henwood's permit was originally revoked in early 1996 by for any reason to be the hold-Slough Magistrates Court, as the result of a complaint by Customs & Excise over the non-payment of betting duty. His subsequent appeal to the Crown Court against their decision was refused on 3 April 1996.

Nine days later, on 12 April, he was appointed as one of two allowed to continue to work at

Sandown

directors of the Victoria Blow- his racecourse pitches under the permit a bookmaker and we're rector resigned his position on 16 March 1997, since when Henwood has been the sole director. mit, issued by Ealing magistrates, since 1993, the annual renewal of which is usually little more than a legal formality. Henwood was listed as a director of VBC in its latest renewal

application to the Ealing bench,

and it is under this permit that

he has continued to operate as

The administration of bookies' pitches on racecourses is the responsibility of the National though this system is currently under review. Both the NAB were aware of the court's decision, and the NAB's rule book states that "if a bookmaker or his permitted company ceases er of a bookmaker's permit he

pitches". However, a meeting of the National Pitch Appeals Committee, at which both the NAB and RCA were represented, agreed that Heowood should be

3.45 Good Lord Murphy (nb)

4.50 Relative Chance

HYPERION

GOING: Chases - Good (Good to Soft in places); Hurdes - Good to Soft (Good in places).

• Right-hand course; seven testing fences along back streight; run-in of 300yd.

• Course is on A307, 4m S of Kingston. Esher station (service from London, Weterloo) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £18, Junior Club (17 - 21yrs) £12; Grandstand & Pad-

clock £10; Park enclosure £5 CAR PARIC Free.

◆ LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson — 24 winners from 98 runners gives a success ratio of 25,6%; J Gifford 17 from 140 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 from 4 (12.1%); J Old 14 from 50 (25%); N Henderson 12 f

94 (128%).

Question of LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durnwoody 27 wins from 112 rides gives a success ratio of 241%; A Maguire 20 from 89 (22.5%); M A Fitzgerald 13 from 114 (144%); C Massie 8 from

2.00 BUSHY PARK NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE

Andanito is in a weak race with a penalty and some of his old bumper ability was on show at Kampton last time when he cruised home from Bigaound. He could well follow up, but CLOSE HARMONY has promised to be a bit decent and gets the welcot. This mare may not have shown her best at Huntingdon lest time – the third time this season she has been easy to back. Her reappearance second to Knock Leader at Lingfield was a sound effort and the stable won the opening novice on the Friday at the last meeting with Mountain Storm. Brownes Hill Lad has got little chance with the double penalty, while Cheating The Moon wouldn't be an obvious winner on this first start since October. Kurakter remains a Biosh type for the race after running over a longer trip here hast time when third to Good Lord Murphy—his promising debut-second to Zaralaskia at Ascot remaining in the memory. Storm Forecast is another with a chance it discounting the poor showing behind Down Leader at Chellenham last time – and the stable won this race last year – but Noble Ashlete needs to improve to collect.

Selection: CLOSE HARMONY

2.35 WORCESTER PARK NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,534

- 7 declared - SETTING: 5-2 Keight's Crest, 3-1 Nearly An Eye, 7-2 Mountain Path, 5-1 Trail Boss, 6-1 Esperan28 N, 10-1 Ballymichael, 12-1 Spirig Ri Glory
287: Parlamentarian 8 to 0 J A McCarthy 13-1 (I Casen) 5 zan FORM GUIDE
With Joey Tizzard taking off 5ib, NEARLY AN EYE can best Mountain Path getting 11 ib. He gained a bloodless win at Kampton lest time-that run coming after a three-month rest. He was a promising three-times point-to-point winner lest season and could just be on a

65 NEW RESIGN (SQ./ER Neyler) I Standard for the standard Standard for the standard for the

(CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,983

2.35 KNIGHT'S CREST (nap) 4.15 Brass Of Mar

34 (235%).

• FAYOURITES: 131 wins in 353 races (371%).

• FAYOURITES: 131 wins in 353 races (371%).

• BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Manhatlan Prince (310); Rosehall (450).

shall automatically forfeit all his

permit. The RCA representative at the meeting was Stanley Jackson, who was at the time the VBC Ltd has held a betting per- managing director of the organisation.

Henwood said yesterday: "My trading arrangements are in complete compliance with NAB rules and both my own and the Victoria Blower's trading arrangements have been examined and given a clean bill of health by the NAB, the RCA, Jockey Chib Security and Customs & Excise."

A spokeswoman for the RCA said that no one at the association was prepared to comment on Henwood's position.

A spokeswoman for Customs & Excise said: "We can confirm that John Henwood had his permit revoked on 3 April, 1996, and that the Victoria Blower Company has had a licence since 1993. We cannot comment on any specific details because of confidentiality but we can confirm that any outstanding matters between John cise have been resolved."

is not up to the Jockey Club to Crown Court?"

decent mark for his first handicap. Mountain Path did well to defy 11st 10lb in his first hand-icap at Windsor where he stayed clear of Wishing William and Workingforpeanuts (win-ner on Wachesday). A subsequent detect in testing ground over a longer trip in the Utiouster race won by Kendel Cavelier can be excused, and he should go close today even under 12st. Eappearans IV was all cut to beet Amazon Lily at Plumpton test month and the form was reversed on 7th different terms behind Calleva Star on the same course. This mans

was reversed on 7b different terms behind Calleva Star on the same course. This mane may find the other two a bit too good at these weights. Bellymichael was crissing the smart Bengers Moor when he clouled the lourith-last at Wincarator last time. The stable's horses are coming good and this gelding cannot be discounted over todays longer trip with a low weight. Knight's Creat has a chence of cloing better after being pulled up when should start as a chence of cloing better after being pulled up when the bounds at Newbury a week ago. The ground was very testing there and Knight's Creat was in contention when he departed at the first down the back straight in Swing Quartet's tace here previously. Thall Boos, a casualty at Donoaster a week ago, beat Fed On Oats on the course in November, but this gelding has had his training problems and, along with Taunton winner Spring To Glory, makes little appeal.

Selection: NEARLY AN EYE

Stok, 14-1 Tipping Along, Dark House, 16-1 Jalcanin, Seububbin, 25-1 others 1997; Act The Wing 8 12 1 Capt A Ogden (7) 10-11 for (at localities) 19 can FORMI GUIDE

DRUID'S SROOK and Drosshams can off the same handles proark last time. But whereas Dromhams was talled off behind Fortunes Course at Luciox, Druid's Brook won at Haydock on the first start for a year. Druid's Brook showed his fine jumping ability on that tough course to beat Martell Boy by eight longiths and he has got to be the one they all have to beat footay. Dromhams is back from a rest and would have a fine chance at his best, especially with the highly-competent Domnic Alera-Hantery aboard. Superior Fin-Int, third in the 1995 Grand National, meets the other pair on very favourable weight terms. He also has the experienced Christian Ward Thomas on his side so this old stager should be being there even on this first start for over a year. Staver Stack would seem to have it the chance, and Darik Honey also has something to do siter being beaten by the hunter Avostar (winner yesterday) at Lingdald on his reappearance. Ensign Ewart has an inexperienced rider aboard, but the gelding was a promising pointer and his showings this season at Kelso and Haydock will have put him spot on for this task. Tipping Along, a winner at Laridal last month, and the maiden Benbulbin, would seem the pick of the others.

3.45 RACAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m of Penalty Value £3,664

BETTUNG: 9-4 King's Beabar, 5-2 Good Lord Marphy, 5-1 Brother Of Iris, 6-1 Tom Tailor, 7-1 Be My Mot, 10-1 Sun Alert, 14-1 Gardison Prisestly, Morgane HB, 16-1 Yet Alfarel, 20-1 Ns Worth A Bob 1997: Friendship 5 ti 7 R Durwoody ti -4 (N Hardeson) 9 time.

Good Lord Murphy setums to the scarse of his 15-length win from Lakestett Leader lest month — and hels beat with Richard Durwoody after the subsequent second with Glern Tormsty to Bullens Bey in a handleap at Chapstow (3m). Good Lord Murphy does have a double penalty to dely so KING'S BANKER has a fine cherce of beating him on his pieced efforts behind Village King at Ludiow and Arkley Royal at Werwick, King's Banker is a win-

4 SUN ALERT (17) (KS Lee) M Folglase 4 102.

HORSE & HOUND GRAND MILITARY GOLD CUP CHASE

(amateura) (CLASS E) £7,000 3m 110yds Pen Value £4,993

er Company Ltd. The other di- Victoria Blower Company's not in a position to comment on whether he should or should not be permitted." Norman Miller, chairman of

the NAB, admitted yesterday that it was "not an easy case". He said that the Appeals Committee "was in the situation of. do we take this man's livelihood away, or do we not. At the end of the day, it was a matter of judgement. We did not have any complaints from punters, and at the end of the day we have given him the benefit of the doubt. We do not think there is any danger to the public, and had we thought that there was, we away from him."

Not all bookmakers agreed with the decision, however. "We've got the Cheltenham Festival coming up and I think it's very dangerous for anyone with a questionable situation to be let loose in that ring," one said yesterday. "I don't want to see anyone put out of business, but the Crown Court didn't feel that he should be in business, Henwood and Customs & Ex- so why should an appeals arrangement within a trade as-John Maxse, the Jockey sociation think that they are Club's spokesman, said that "it more knowledgeable than the



would have taken his pitches John Henwood: Sole director of Victoria Blower Company

tributor to the ongoing debate come extremely valuable comon the future of the betting ring. modities overnight. Rails bookmakers are pressing to be allowed to display their prices on boards when a Levy Board committee publishes its proposals for the future administration of the betting ring later this month. If, as some ex- doing so is today, but the perpect, the committee also intro- mit does not expire for anothduces a system whereby pitches er month, and Henwood is can be bought and sold, rather than allocated on a waiting-list basis, existing rails pitches, in

Henwood was a major con- members' enclosure, would be-

A spokeswoman for Ealing magistrates court said yesterday that the Victoria Blower Company has yet to submit an application for renewal of its betting permit. The deadline for expected to be calling the odds from his pitch at Cheltenham throughout next week's threeprime locations adjacent to the day Festival.

ning pointer who will relief the trip and Mary Reveley's raider Brother Of Irie, a bumper winter and least-time-out hurdes winner, both at Carliele, is another here who may have trouble giving the weight easy to Nicty Henderson's charge. Brother Of Iris appreciated the step up in detance when beating Haddil Just over four weeks ago and he is definitely on the upgrade. Tom Tallier has won here and at Exeter but there is a doubt about his ability to get this longer trip. Be hely Mot is a consistent though one-paced mare who was a three-length second to the useful Chebrol at Windeor last time. She ween't good enough to whi a handicap here in January so looks beatable in this league. Garrison Friendly, a stablement of Kinde Bander. a stablemate of Kings Banker, is a winning pointer who shaped with promise behind Arids.

Royal at Warwick, with Morgans Hitt was only five lengths behind Be My Mot at Folke-stone and is now 5to better off with improvement to come.

4.15 DUKE OF GLOUCESTER MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,081 (CLASS H) £3,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £2,081 5 \$234 ARCHES ONTS (22) (C) (D) Infoo-Robrit J Trico-Robrit S 21 ... Mr J Trico-Robrit S) 48-82 ACROSS THE CARD (13) (D) \$46 Gen C Remany C Ramany D 24 ... Min G Wheeler (7) 4 ARFO BRAES OF MAR (822) (C) (Queen Elzabeth) N Henderson 8 24 ... Min G Elevoed (7) 5 69-643 GREEN TRAES (13) (D) \$46 Gen C A Remany C Remany 3 24 ... Min G C Lambert (7) 8 85003 HOLY STING (272) (D) (G MacEthard) J De Glas 9 24 Capt E Andrewee (7) 6 declared 6 declared 6 declared 16 Green Times, 16-1 Holy Sting 1897: Bracismfeld 11 11 th Capt D Alex-Hankey (7) 4-5 tay (R Barber) 7 ran FORMI GUIDE FORMI GUIDE These an age ago since BRAES OF MAR won over hundles here from stablements Sub 8 The Fellow and Senor El Betruttly yet her the youngster number in this six-home affair. Even

It seems an age ago since BRIALES OF MARK who over hundles here from stablemes Subme Fellow and Senor El Behuttl yet their the youngeter numer in this Six-home affect Even
with below-per efforts when lightly-need last term, Brass Of Mar stands out today on
this first run for over a year—the Important factor being his sability to win when tresh from
The Black Monic over hundles at Leicester during his second campeting. Brass Of Mar did
best Ground Nut on his chasing debut immediately afterwards at Hereford and this looks.
his day for further glory in the hands of the highly competent Oils_Black of There are
some in-form polyters is opposition, though whether the winding form of Assertican Eyre
and Across The Card is good enough remains to be seen. They should still go well with
the coefficient differes but the main threat is liable to come from Architec Oets in the Capatie hands of Jon Titos-Roigh. Archies Gets was over a tip short of his best on the course last time and the combination return to the forture for the second year running after landing the Dick McCreery from Mister Main Man. Green Times is hard to fancy, and Hoty Sting also looks well bestable on this first run for a year.

Selection: BRAES OF MAR

4.50 SURREY RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 6f Penaity Value £3,680

Suny Bay to go before public trial

TRAINERS made some tricky decisions yesterday about erably the Champion is probawhether to send their horses for bly the race she will run in. I hope the Champion Hurdle or easier targets at the Cheltenham Festival, but when Suny Bay's participation in the Gold Cup is decided the punting public will be allowed to take part in the process.

French Holly and Zaralaska were among the notable withdrawals from the Champion at vesterday's five-day acceptance stage, with the Royal & SunAlliance and Supreme Novices' Hurdles their new respective

Despite their defections and those of Collier Bay, Grey Shot and Sharpical, next Tuesday's £200,000 race could have its largest field in several years after a total of 22 horses were left in yesterday.

Ferdy Murphy is convinced that he is right in ruling French Holly out of the Champion. "It was a very difficult decision but in my heart of hearts I know it is right. All year the plan had been to give him about four runs then go for the novice race. We'd kick ourselves if we got it wrong. Everything has worked out well so why change it?

"I would much sooner run in the novice race and have people asking why he didn't go for the Champion than run him in the Champion and have people say I'm an idiot."

Mary Reveley, who has built her career on the cornerstone of caution, surprisingly has allowed Marello to run in the Champion rather than the Stay-

ers' Hurdle.

"Unless it dries out considyou can ignore her run at Sandown last time. She might not be good enough but I think she deserves to take her chance."

Mrs Reveley, outlining plans for her other Festival runners, Foundry Lane and Robbo, then reverted to more characteristic mode. "As long as they all come home safe and sound that's the main thing. Cheltenham

RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: Close Harmony** (Sandown 2.00) NB: The Proms (Sandown 4:50)

has never meant a great deal to me as we have never had any luck down there."

Charlie Brooks, meanwhile, will make a decision over Sunv Bay's participation in the Gold Cup after the grey has worked at Sandown on Saturday. "It's not ideal," Brooks said yesterday. "If you have got a Gold Cup horse you don't really want to be taking him to a racecourse the Saturday before Cheltenham, but he will be short if we don't.

"I may be making a noose for myself but I think it is the right thing to do for two reasons. I think it is the right thing to do for the horse, and the right thing to do for the public.

"The horse has got a good following and it is right to let the public see him and make their own minds up. We are planning to go one mile on the bridle and jump seven fences."

3.40: 1. BANN VIEW (M Berry) 14-1; 2. Chempagne Friend 11-4 fer; 3. Chet in The Box 25-1 13 ran. 2, 1%. (C Brooks, Lambourn) Tota: £2500; £230; £230; £250 DF: \$480. CSF: £5407. True: £7580. 4.10: 1. BALLYDOUGAN (S Currar) 16-1; 2. Küminghon 15-8 lar); 3. Frasm Beby 5-2. 5 ran. 22, dist. (R Mathew, Burford), Tota: £2000; £330. \$10. DF: £2200 CSF: \$4330. 4.40: 1. AVOSTAR (M* B Polock) 4-5 law; 2. Catchapenny 10-1; 3. Sheer Ablithy 33-1.5 ran. £24, 10, (M*s Caroline Balby, Holcethy). Tota: £190; £270, £140. DF: £450. CSF: £8.69. Placepot: £2380. Quadopot: £8.50

E8.59. Placepot: £28.80. Quadpot: £8.50. Place 6: £4.57. Place 5: £14.52.

WINCANTON

\$25.90.
2.50: 1. BENGERS MOOR (Mr J Tizzard)
2.50: 1. BENGERS MOOR (Mr J Tizzard)
1-2 tav; 2. Stratus 18-1; 3. Topparlile 68-1.
5 ran. 17, dat. (P Nichols) Totac \$140; \$110,
\$210 DF: \$500, \$5F: \$2786, NR; Baytine Star.

3.20: 1. CHERRYNUT (M. 7) TOZERO) 9-1; 2. Linton Rocks 4-1; 3. Mister Drum 12-1.6 ran. 10-11 fav Microft Riviera. 174, dat [P Nichols]. Totae: 2730; E280, E140. DF: C1000 CSF: E4018. 3.30: 1. FERRUFINO (M. Griffiths) 11-1;

TUBUL 15540 LB-F (TACK) CSP: 1977/2 Tri-cest (21397/28 Tric (1982/00 (per von, pool of £1945-45 to Sandown 45/3, 5-20: 1. PREMIER BAY (R Durwoody) 5-1: 2. Lennisaren 7-4 fev; 3. lamus 7-2, 16 ran. 2-h, 7. (P Hobbs), Totee 2530; 5230, £180, £220. DF: £130. GSF: £294, Troc £130. NPs: Beano Script. Crimemon Culo.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £14,579,47 carried forward to Sendown today).
Placepot: £1,401,00. Quadpot: £512,80.
Place 6: £2,458,56. Place 5: £533,30.

INDEPENDENT

RACING SERVICES

0891 261 970

1	Champion Hurdle (2m 110y	ds)			
Ì		C	H	L	T
1	1-0604 BELLATOR (17) (D) G Baiding 5 12 0	66-1	100-1	100-1	86-1
	141-22 CADOUGOLD (88) (D) M Pipe 7 (20	40-1	50-1	50-1	50-1
	11-210 COMMANCHE COURT (31) (CD) T Wash (4) 5 2 0	40-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
1	-11/40 DARAYDAN (36) (CD) M Plpe 6 12 0	150-1	100-1	100-1	125-1
	F/82-1 DATO STAR (52) (D) J M Jefferson 7 12 0 E Calleghes	5-1	11-2	11-2	6-1
ı	F33320 FRANEGAN'S HOLLOW (57) (D) A P O'Brien (4) 8 12 0	100-1	160-1	100-1	100-1
	35-010 GRAPHIC BOUNLISER (31) (D) (EF) A Moore (n) 6 12 0 .P Carberry	33-1	40-1	33-1	40-1
	021-10 GRINNES (101) (D) (BF) C Rocks (III) 5-12 0	20-1	15-1	- 16 -1	16-1
	-23451 PM SUPPOSIN (19) (D) R Rove 6 12 0	7-1	6-1	8-1	5-1
	1-1111 ISTABRAQ (51) (C) (D) A P OBrien (h) B 120	52	11-4	5-2	52
ı	-29612 KERAWI (31) (D) N Neiston-Devise 5 12 0	15-1	18-1	20-1	25-1
١	5-229 MR MARKHAN (33) (0) J GRood 8 12 0	100-1	100-1	100-1	100-1
ł	-1122 PRICWELL (87) (CD) (SF) M Pipe 8 12 () A McCoy	25-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
(12-151 RED BLAZER (17) (D) Mes H Kright 7 12 0	33-1	40-1	33-1	40-1
-	1/2-14 RELKEEL (52) (CD) D Nicholson 9 12 0 A Maguire	20-1	16-1	18-1	20-1
1	-11134 SAMMARTTINO (SIR) (D) D Nicholson 6 12 () R Johnson	20 -1	29-1	25-1	20-t
١	111-22 SHADOW LEADER (SE) (CD BF) C Egenton 7 12 0 _M Williamson	8-1	7-1	7-1	8-1
ł	19-240 SHOOTING LIGHT (\$1) (CD) P Murphy 5 120	50-1	50-t	65-1	50-1
1	250811 THEATREWORLD (24) (D) A P O'Brian (In) 6 12 0	40-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
١	653332 LADY DAISY (45) (D) A Mulins (H) 9 11 9	100-1	100-1	66-1	100-1
1	11-15 MARELLO (36) (10) Mas M Reselvy 7 11 9P Milvito	25-1	33-1	25-1	20-1
	25053 MISTINGUETT (26) (C) (D) N Tweston-Davies 6 11.9	50-1	66-1	50-1	50-1
	– 22 declared – Ench-way a quarter the oricle, places, 1, 2, 3 (Choleother All fions offering 'roon-namer, no bet' C - Coral, H - Willem Hil, L - Lacbroises, T - Tot		skey)		•

Results

CARLISLE

CARLISLE
2.00: 1. VITAL ISSUE (P Carberry) 4-6
tar; 2. Hurst Flyer 9-4; 3. Natural Tislent
12-1.7 ran. 8, 6. (J J O'Neil, Penrith). Tota:
12:50; £130, £140. Dual Forecast: £150.
Computer Straight Forecast: £218. Non
Runner; Forrest Tribe.
2.30: 1. MY MAN IN DURNDALK (R Supple) 25-1; 2. Ham N'Eggs 5-4 fay; 3. Jack
Yests 9-2. 5 ran. 7, 11/4. (C Grant, Billingham).
Tota: £2740; £240, £140. £1.

Sin 2. NR: Poteto Men.
S.00: 1. GLENBOWER (Mr C Borner)
vens tex. 2. Queens Brigade 4-1; 3. Astro Lines 7-4. 5 ren. 12, 13. (M Hammond, Middenam). Tota: \$180, \$110, \$240. DF: \$520.
\$5F: \$352.

CSF: £5.52
3.30: 1. EIRESPRAY (Richard Guest) 11-8. Jt tav; 2. Sniper 14-1; 3. Aide Memoire 18-1. 5 ran. 11-8 Jt tav Burnt Irap (4th). 2½, 24. (Mrs S Smith, Bingley). Tota: £2.30; £1.50, £2.20; £7. 58.60. CSF: £6.77.
4.00: 1. PALACE OF GOLD (W Dowling) 7-2 jt tav; 2. Etarnat City 20-1; 3. Railegio 7-2 jt tav, 10 ran. 3½, 2. (L. Lungo, Carutherstown). Tota: £5.60; £1.90, £2.20, £3.10. DF: £63.20. CSF: £53.77. Tricast: £2.3714. Tric. £32.40.

13240. 4.30: 1. PETER (8 Harding) 7-4; 2. Far-ney Glen 7-1; 3. Cellidh Boy 9-2 4 ran. 11-8 fav Dorin Castle (left). 9, 8. (0 Whillans, Hawick). Tota: 2230. DF: 2360. CSF: 21052. NR: Better Times Aheed.
S.00: 1. SUMTHYNE SPECIAL (R Supple) 7-4; 2. Steel Rigg 100-1; 3. Rossmar 5-1 6 ran. 11-10 few Que Cumingram. 4.2%.
(L. Lungo, Carnitherstown). Teta: \$3.0; \$3.50; \$10:0 DF; \$3250. CSF; \$278.78.

3.50: 1. FERRUFINO (M Griffiths) 71-1; 2. Secret Service 10-1; 3. Alice International 7-2.7 ran. 2-1 fav Direc 2.5; (F Pich) Tota: 92-2; (C SE) 250.08.
4.20: 1. SOME-707 (Miss L Eleckford) 4-1; 2. Chissa 9-4; 3. Young Brave 5-1.5 ran. 11-8 fav Nodform Wonder (4th), 1%, clist. (John Squire) Tota: 6720; £150, £15 TOWCESTER 2.10: 1. ROYAL SHREWSBURY (Michael Bremsn) 10-1; 2. Quilet Moments 8-2 far; 3. South West Express 14-1; 4. Bold Leap 2-1; 16 ran. 10.2%, (Ars Mentia Jones, Lambourn) Tobe £1450; 2500, £146, £250, £250. Dual Forecast: £44(0. CSF: £52.52. Tricast: £51052. Tric: £21730. Non Runner: Weever Strates

2.40: 1. RAMALLAH (J Culloty) 11-10 isv; 2. Feehtlon Makker 25-1; 3. Man of The Match 7-2.8 ram. 6, 25 (Miss H Kingh), Wan-tage). Tothe: £20: £140, £240, £150. DF: £1780. CSF: £2555. Trior £2040. Non Pun-riars: Boots Madden, Glacial King, Yeston Thomas.

Thomes.
3.16: 1. NESSUN DORO (Crris Webb)
2-1 fav; 2. Glanmerin 10-1; 3. Hawthorns
Gen 4-1.8 ran. 2, 4, [S. Mellor, Swindon).
Telan: 22-70; 1600. (23.0), 120. DF: 5950. CSP:
52206. Tricest: \$7197.

NATIONAL HUNT FESTIVAL '98 17TH • 18TH • 19TH MARCH

THURSDAY COMPLETELY SOLD OUT TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR TUES/WEDS CLUB 280 TATTERSALLS 525 COURAGE 510

> CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE

0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS SANDOWN 971 981 972 MARKET RASEN | 973 | 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS

Ayr HYPERION

2.10 The Client 2.45 Welsh March 3.20 Birkdale 3.55 Mr Knitwit 4.25 Howayman 5.00 Manful Left-hand galoping course.

Left-hand galoping course.

Course is E of town on A758. Ayr station (service from Glasgow) im ADMISSION: Cub & Grandstand E7. CAR PARKE Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: G Richards 34 winners from 170 numbers.

(20%), Mrs M Reveley 31-153 (203%), J J O'Nelli 22-122 (8%), ikh 19-137 (139%). ● LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin S7 wins from 176 rides (21%), 8 Stoney 27-179 (55%), T Reed 14-126 (111%), R Supple 10-45 (22.2%). ES: 178 wins from 409 races (43.57 BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Danside (Visored, 425).

2.10 LOCH DOON 'NH' MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m

42U02 AME, WCH (13) J Berry 5 11 8. 6-56 CANDEN WOOM (6) (D) J Henson 5 11 8.....

2.45 ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,000 added 2m

R Supple -5 declared - 12 - R Supple -5 declared - 20-1 Reliant March, 2-1 Recine's Ower, 12-1 Single Sourcing, 20-1 Politor Merchant, 50-1 Sunstrike

3.20 JAMES BARCLAY MEMORIAL HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m 110vds BETTING: 7-4 Strictale, 5-2 Costs Box, 3-1 Serivicte, 4-1 Attaclate

3.55 ARTHUR CHALLENGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f

-4 COLASSEL BETTRIC: 13-6 Mr Knituit, 3-1 Jymjen Johnny, Micholes Plant, 7-2 Titan
That

SSSS-P DONSIDE (47) G While 10 11 12 like A Robson (7) V PAF-RS HAMLEYS CALL (28) J Hughes 8 18 like N Morgan (7) UBI-46 ARCITIC LEADER (28) A GENTAL 8 11 7 Like III N L Tempor (7) 24/28- LOVE ACTIVILIAN (387) Mis. C Amos 7 11 7 Jile B Gibeon (7)

BETTING: evens Howeyman, 9-4 Testur Bradewinds, 11-2 Buck's Deligid, 16-1 Border Glory, Arctic Landar, 20-1 Love Actinium, 33-1 others 5.00 LOCH ENOCH NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

5 4-53 WEET TAN (SE) Lungs 9 11 0. — R Supple 6 045-F1 SEGALA (13) (D) JJ Chell 7 10 3. — P Carberry 7 C23 TRACEABILITY (11) M Hermand 5 10 6. — R Gardey 8 P-435 POINT DUTY (71) (D) F Marriagh 8 10 0. — B Hending — 8 declared — Ministrum weight: 10st. Title handlings weight: Point Duty 951 40. BETTENG: 2-1 Segala, 9-2 Kilbue King, 11-2 Membel, 5-1 Gospel Song, Traceability, 10-1 Wee Tim, Point Duty, 12-1 Pappa Claretie

Market Rasen HYPERION

1.50 Dutch Dyane 2.25 Neltegrity 3.00 Torn Silk 3.30 Pettaugh 4.05 Super Rapier 4.40 Vital Wit-ness 5.10 Belisario

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in straight on Chase course).

Right-hand, shorp, undulating circuit. Run-in of one furling.
Course as east of town on ASSI. Market Rason station (Lincoln - Grimply line) I'm ADMISSION: Club 215, Taltersale 29 (OAP methodismity line) I'm ADMISSION: Club 215, Taltersale 29 (OAP methodismity line) bers of courses Jubine Club neil price); Silver Ring 05 (Jubine OAPs half pice). CAR PARK: pictic areas 22, remainder free.

half pice). CAR PARK: pictic areas 22, remainder free.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveloy 23-700 (23%), K Morgan

5, 20 M LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveloy 23-700 (23%), K Morgan 5-20 (125%) Mrs S Smith 12-97 (124%) P Beaumont 9-49 (184%) LEADING JOCKEYS: A S Smith 20-140 (M3%), A P McCoy 16-49 (52.7%). A binguine 15-73 (7.19%). L Wyer 15-94 (17%).

• FAVOURITES: 207 wins from 597 races (34.7%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: 80 Brave (405) 1.50 FARMERS DAY SELLING IN 11 110yds ## - 9 decined -## - 9 decined - ## - 9 decined - ## - 9 decined - ## - 9 decine 981,120. ## - 94 Decine Dynam, 3-1 African San, 7-2 Chromoson Stick, 6-1 Diso's ### - 94 Decine Dynam, 3-1 African San, 7-2 Chromoson Stick, 6-1 Diso's ### - 94 Decine 981, 9-1 decine of Hutlen, 14-1 Cobie, 23-7 others 2.25 KANSAS' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 11 110yds

P. PALSON SACRECT TO THE TOTAL WINDOWS P. Sty 9 Th TO TOTAL WINDOWS P. STY D. STANDARD P. STONE WINDOWS P.

3.00 WHEATLEY PACKAGING NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £4,000 4YO 2m 1f110yds DLE (CLASS D) £4,000 4YO 2m 1f 110yds

FAVOURITES: 20" wins from 597 races (347%).

INVERED FRST TIME: 8e Brave (409).

1.50 FARMERS DAY SELLING HANDICAP

FARMERS DAY SELLING HANDICAP

OND FARMERS DAY SELLING HANDICAP

HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 2m 1f 110yds

HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 2m 1f 110yds

NOUNARI (59) JH Johnson 5 to Shenorth (7)

OND CHANGON STRCK (17) Philiphs 5 to She w Marchington

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OND CHANGON STRCK (17) Philiphs 5 to Shenorth (7)

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OND CHANGON

407-F ERPHONEC (29) (3) May L Williamson 8 to 70 Mer O MarPhall (5)
2017-0 DAWA MISSON (14) (3) T Easterly (6 to 8 ... L Wyer B
1992- PRELIDE TO FAME (409) May K Million 5 to 8 ... L Wyer B
1992- PRELIDE TO FAME (409) May K Million 5 to 8 ... R Johnson
1988-4 SYMCHAK TREER (217) (2) G Hotmas 6 to 2 ... M Brannas 8
240055 SIGMA WRELESS (27) T Etherhotion 9 to 13 ... A Thornton
44-R*2 NORTHERN STAR (16) (0) Mass J Warnel 7 to 10 ... 4.05 WHEATLEY PACKAGING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f

CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f

2 PERC JOHN DRIMM (20) (CD)(EF) F R Webber 7 11 4.5 Methali

PENCONY BOY (420) R Webber 7 11 4.5 Methali

RESPONSE ARE (11) C Elevington 8 10 2 L. Wher B

3 RSAP BERNAME (48) T Elevington 8 10 2 L. Wher B

4 265FP DEEL CULAY (20) Mrs. J Buckley 7 10 2 L. L. Wher B

5 85FP SERNS BAR (715) C Millington 9 10 2 L. L. Millington 8 10 2 L. JA McCadily

6 (I/P. LIMITED LIABILITY (836) (C) P Webber 8 10 2. JA McCadily

7 8(-122 PUREVALUE (85(D)(EF) M V Eastroy 7 10 2. A Thorodon

8 9FESY STANSECH FREIND (44) M Tomphin 9 10 12 L. A PiecCoy

9 330FE SUPER RAPIER (10) G Habbard 6 10 2. Millington 10 10 2 Medicand 10 10 2 L. W Worthington

10 0FP-04 WILLE WANNUABE (7) M Crapman 8 10 12 L. W Worthington

11 (22 BEAU BOYS ARTING (77) M W Eastroy 7 10 7 A.S. Smith

— 11 declared —

BETTING: 5-4 John Drown, 5-2 Purvelon, 5-1 Stansoch Friend, 8-1 Septer Repler, 12-1 Be Borve, 33-1 obsess

3.30 LINCOLNSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOC H'CAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m 5f 110yds BEAUMONTCOTE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m 1f

– 7 declarad – BETTING: 5-4 Sunny Moust, 5-2 Vital Witness, 7-1 Needwood Joi Andersett, Sparrow Hall, 12-1 Sellor Jim, 20-1 Bobbit Back On

5.10 FARMERS STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 1m 5f 110yds

STRONG ARROW G Habbert 5 11 4 A P MicCoy
The BAT (6) A Javis 5 11 4 A B MicCoy
B GO THE BAT (6) A Javis 5 11 4 Mix A Evante (7)
B WELDIARRAMK (48) W M Bishourse 5 11 4 Mix A Evante (7)
FPD SEMBOURS SECRET (514) W M Bishourse 5 13 5 Gary Lyone
11 4 BELSARD (48) N Garber 4 10 10 Javis 13 Gary Lyone
12 CHEF WARDANCE Ms S Larrymen 4 10 10 Javis 14 Minges (3)
13 2 INTO BATTLE (30) J J Charn 4 10 10 Javis 14 Minges (3)
14 3 GRAMMY RECK (30) F 864 4 10 5 Minges (3)
15 0 MARD ON THE MEL (17) M Crepmen 4 10 5 W Worldington
16 0 MORTON'S AEM (38) J J L Harris 4 10 5 Javis 14 Minges (3)
16 16 Calcurad —
16 4 Calcurad —
18 ETTRICE 7-4 hope Battle, 8-4 Bellisarto, 6-1 Strong Arrow, 12-1 Pro Vad12 14 1 Silent Action, 16-1 Famous Dani, Roddors, The Bat, 20-1 others

Graf: New experience

Ice-maiden Graf warms to life as a sentimental favourite

WHILE determined to return said, "but in terms of breaking Hannover, Graf is ranked No 45 John Roberts on to the showpieces of the French a record, no, that is not anything in the world. At the time of her Open and Wimbledon, which falls the week after her 29th birthday on 14 June, Steffi Graf is adamant that she has nothself. "My goal is to enjoy what I am doing out there," she said yesterday, "everything else, I have done before."

The former world No 1. is garet Court, who leads the German 24-21 in terms of Grand Slam singles titles. "I want to do well at the Grand Slam tournaments, that is for sure," Graf

that I believe I can get close to." Graf was addressing quesor to her match last night against ing to prove, not even to her- Lindsay Davenport, the American world No 2, in the semi-finals of the Evert Cup at Indian Wells, California. It is only the second tournament Graf has played since undergoing knee second only to Australia's Mar- surgery after losing to Amanda Coetzer in quarter-finals of the French Open last June.

Defeated by Sabine Appelmans last month in the third might have been over when she

injury she was the world No 3, the changing role of and the WTA Tour decided that tions during a conference call pri- this would be Graf's status for the a tennis champion purpose of seeding when she made a comeback. The position will be reviewed during her next tournament, the Lipton Championships at Key Biscayne, Flori-

da, which start next Thursday. Graf is entitled to regard every match she completes without physical mishap as a bonus, particularly bearing in not asking myself to win any spemind the fears that her career round of her comeback event in missed Wimbledon and the

turned underdog

United States Open last year and was unable to compete at the Australian Open at the beginning of this year.

that I will be able to move friends and my dogs." around the court better and curity around my game."

Her months of rehabilitation in Austria were relieved by interesting diversions. "I spent a lot of time close to Vienna. I kept myself busy going to plays, "I'm happy with the way it or going to concerts. I saw U2 is going," Graf said, "but I am and I saw David Bowie, Fiddler

best I can. I have a lot of room friends and meeting new peofor improvement. I still think ple, finally having time for my

Perceived as imperturbable probably find a little more se-during a record number of 374 weeks as the world No 1 and when winning Wimbledon on seven occasions, Graf is now experiencing the strange sensation of being a sentimental favourite.

"It has been extremely emotional," she said. "People have been so supportive, saying they cific tournaments and I am not cus. I went to galleries and to I am going to make it. I have going to be unhappy if things a great exhibition in Vienna. been a little emotional and don't fall into place, because I And I spent a lot of time at nervous in the start of my

am trying and I can only try the home, actually making new matches, but then I seem to find somebody who was very nervous or anxious to go out there, but that has changed a little.

"It has been a little bit intimidating playing with the crowd behind you, at least in the heginning, when you walk on the court and people are cheering for you, especially in Hannover, and here during the first match. It has been different, and it makes me think what I went through in the last few months to get to that point, and that kind of makes me happy to be able to go through a moment like that."

Everton agree fee for Sierra

Football

By Alan Nixon

HOWARD KENDALL has set up a £3m deal to sign the Chilean international, Jose Luis Sierra. The Everton manager has agreed a fee of £1.7m for the 29year-old Colo Colo midfielder, who featured prominently in his country's recent victory over England at Wembley.

Kendall hopes to complete the deal over the weekend, though his Aston Villa counterpart, John Gregory, is also interested. There is no need to apply for a work permit for Sierra as he has an Italian passport.

West Ham have admitted interest in another Chilean, the tough-tackling defender Javier Margas. It is unlikely he will be able to sign in time to beat the transfer deadline, though.

Bolton are trying to sign the Wolves striker, Don Goodman, whose goal put Leeds out of the FA Cup last week, in a swap deal for Jamie Pollock, who has told Todd he wants to leave quickly. He is rated at around £700.000.

If Crystal Palace are intent on signing Paul Gascoigne, they may find themselves with little opposition. The competition was dropping away yesterday.

Middlesbrough's manager, Bryan Robson, dismissed reports that he wanted to buy the England midfielder, saying, *I wish I had the money."

Although Robson might yet be interested in a loan deal to until the end of the season, Everton and Derby have ruled themselves out of the chase.

Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea manager, has found a way to accommodate the first-team aspirations of his two goalkeepers. Ed de Goey will play in the Cup-Win-

appearing in Premiership games. Chelsea's captain, Dennis Wise, has received a two-match ban from the Football Association for collecting 11 bookings this season. He will miss the Premiership games at West Ham and

Derby. Everton's Croatian international defender Slaven Bilic has been given a three-match suspension. Bilic was sent off during the 2-1 defeat at South-

ampton last weekend. Neville Southall, Everton's become the player-coach at Stoke City. The Weishman will leave Goodison Park on a free

transfer after 16 years. West Bromwich Albion are hoping to complete the signing of Manchester City's Australian defender, Jason van Blerk, for

£250,000. The Wales coach, Bobby Gould, has appointed Graham coaching career in the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

name their new manager today. following John Beck's sacking this week. Beck is planning to take the club to court, claiming



ighbury's growing pains

ARSENAL may or may not set up home beneath Wemblev's Twin Towers, but one thing is plain. They have outgrown Highbury. This is a club which measures itself not against Chelsea ners' Cup ties and Coca-Cola or even Spurs. The yardstick is Cup final, with Dimitri Kharin. Manchester United, or the foreign aristocrats like Milan, Bayern or Real Madrid - and for a club that sees itself as a founder member of any European Super League the comparison is sham-

San Siro in Milan holds 75,000, Old Trafford 56,000, and Highbury just 38,000. United's turnover of £88m for the 1996-97 scason eclipsed Arsenal's £27.2m; its gate receipts, at £30m, were three times as great. Very quickly, this translates into the power to pay the wages long-serving goalkeeper, is set to needed to maintain a top-class squad. Ultimately Arsenal will

Basically there are four options: do nothing (and invite second-class status); adopt a minimalist "fill-in-the-corners" solution at Highbury, that would lift capacity to 45,000 but leave the ground's "footprint" intact; rip down the existing South and West Stands and re-Williams as his assistant, make Highbury a state-of-the-Williams has had a 25-year art stadium holding 50,000 or

more; or move elsewhere. Among possible destina-Lincoln City are expected to tions, the two front-numers are a "brown field" site on derelict land near King's Cross Station, costing perhaps £75m, or Wembley, for which Arsenal is reputedly bidding up to £100m.

But why, it may be asked, all the fuss about crowds of 55,000 when in the pre-Taylor days, crowds of 60,000 plus for big games were commouplace? One answer is that, in fact, average attendances used to be lower than is fondly remembered. The expectation now is that a 55,000-capacity ground would be sold out for every game, be it against Liverpool, Manchester United or Barnsley. By contrast, Arsenal attracted only 41,000-per game in 1971-72, despite having won the

simply be unable to compete.

Double the year before. And then there is gentrification. Not only the gentrifica-

months wages for Dennis Bergkamp. Had Highbury remained the working-class pre-

tion of football, as terraces once reeking of beer and urine have been turned into family-friendly seated enclosures and the Premiership has been transformed into one of the most glamorous leagues in the world. But also, more problematically, the gen-

to join the kings of Europe. Rupert Cornwell reports trification of the neighbourhoods around Highbury too. Blairland N1 is but a mile away; a nice terraced house in N5 can fetch £350,000-plus - fully three a month. "It's a bit like a siege,"

serve of vestervear, expansion would have gone through on the nod. But these are residents who demand a quality of life to match their mortgage. They are, for instance, unamused at having their streets taken over by the cars that

the residents' revolt. "You get big cars with chauffeurs, who two hours while their boss is inside the ground." And, the HCA wonders, would 50,000 or 55,000 be the end of it? Ken Friar, Arsenal's managing director, has let slip have replaced the bus and un-

Arsenal's London palace is

too small for a club aiming

porter's preferred mode of

transport, and render their

streets unusable twice at week-

ends and a couple of evenings

says Alison Carmichael of the

Highbury Community Associ-

ation (HCA) which is leading

regular attendance could be as high as 65,000. It is only 10 years since the old

Clock End was redeveloped, and just five since the gorgeous £20m stand which replaced the North Bank opened for business. And now, talk of another makeover. Who's to say that a few years down the line, especially if a Eu-Arsenal don't come back asking

for another 10,000 seats? But even filling in the corners, or rebuilding the West and South sides of the ground is only part of the story. The pitch itself, at keep the engines running for ineligible for international senal manager, has lamented a playing area "made for old English football... Teams come to Highbury and defend deep and wait for mistakes... Long ball, derground as the modern sup- a guess that the club's potential good header, deflection, goal."

That is not the style Wenger likes to play, though some would say it brought George Graham a pile of silverware. In any major rebuilding, the pitch would be both widened and lengthened. Some 30 houses immediately behind the West Stand would be demolished - several of them communities of elderly tenants ropean Super League takes off, living alone, terrified at the

prospect of moving. It is by no means certain that the bid for Wembley will succeed, but if it does it poses the question as to what would become of Highbury. The council is keen 110 yards by 73 yards, is one of that it remains a leisure facility, the smallest in the Premiership. so a lucrative housing redevelopment would appear to be games. Arsène Wenger, the Ar-ruled out - though even if that were allowed one estimate is that the land is worth only around £10m. One intriguing alternative has been mooted recently: that Arsenal sell the stadium to Wimbedon, currently billeted

at Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park. That would surely risk alienating Arsenal's local support and, all other things being equal, the club would like to stay at Highbury, its home since 1913. But a long wrangle looms with Islington council and local residents, even assuming permission finally is granted for an expansion that would satisfy the club. The neatest solution would be King's Cross, relatively close and with excellent transport links. But again, traffic problems could thwart it. The siege of the chauffeurs is set to

Rusedski recovers his touch

GREG RUSEDSKI recovered his composure to heat the American Vincent Spadea in three sets and move into the third round of the ATP Chantpions' Cup in Indian Wells, Cal-

ifotnia. Rusedski, the British No! who is seeded six, lost the first set and was 2-0 down in the second before he began to wear down his unseeded opponent and triumph 4-6, 6-3,

"I believe I can get back from any position now," said Rused-ski, who next plays Carks Moya. "I think I've solidified my game on returns. I think I'm competing a lot better. That's the key right now. I'm down a set and a break, and I don't feel like I'm relying on my serve. I have other things that work for me."

The former world No 1 Jim Courier joined Andre Agassi on the comeback trail, surviving two match points to oust the fifth seed, Jonas Bjorkman.

Courier, hampered since last summer by an arm injury. has seen his ranking fall to 46, his lowest since 1989. After an indifferent first set, he turned on some of his old power, survived two match points and won 4-6, 6-1, 7-6.

Agassi, who has improved from 141 in the world to No 40 in just six weeks, continued his upward climb with a 6-2, 6-4 vicfory over the 14th seed. Sergi Bruguera.

Martina Hingis dug her way out of a second-set hole to pull off a straight-sets victory over Conchita Martinez in the quarter-finals of the Evert Cup. which is also being played in Indian Wells.

Hingis, the top seed, won the first set easily then fell behind 5-1 in the second but reeled off six straight games to win 6-1, 7-5 and advance to a semi-final encounter with the eighth-seed-

ed American Venus Williams. In the day's other quarter-final, second seed and defending champion Lindsay Davenport defeated unseeded American Sandra Cacic 6-1, 7-5 and advanced to play Steffi Graf.

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Betts back in Wigan squad

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

WIGAN will have the ideal boost for their Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final against St Helens with the first appearance of Denis Betts since his return to the club.

Betts has been out since tearing shoulder muscles playing for the Auckland Warriors in last year's World Club Championship, but he has been added to the squad for Sunday - and could 🕏 even start the match if Henry Paul fails a test on a calf injury.

"It's a bit of a risk playing him without previously having a game," the Wigan coach. John Monic, said. "But if you were going to take that risk with anyone, it would be with Denis Betts. He will give the other guys a lift just by being there."

Monie's plan is that Betts should start on the bench, but he could even be promoted to the starting line-up if Paul fails to recover from his injury,

If Paul is ruled out, Monie will move his captain. Andy Farrell, to stand-off, with either Betts or the promising Lec Gilmour coming into the back row of the pack.

The other change sees the winter signing from the London Broncos, Tony Mestrov, start in the front row in place of Noil

Cowie, who drops to the beneil. Cowie has been penalised for a sub-standard showing a Dewsbury in the last round.

REVERED BUT SHOWING ITS AGE ARRUST 185

Ah, Wembley. There is not a football crowd that has not suring wishfully of going there. The name conjures the World Cup win of 1966, 39 steps to excitation or despair and, when the romantic trimmings have been stripped away, a stadium that is it-equipped for the 21st century.

Outdated and uncomfortable compared to modern grounds in Britain and abroad it see it as its spitfull some visitions or the plans to reno. The plans to completely modernised, in 2002.

Even in its is current state, however, it is: who first played these in 12 Western pair have Twin Towers within sight

Klinsmann's escape clause

TOTTENHAM'S Jürgen Klinsmann saga rumbled on vesterday, ers know about it but I have nevwith the German international emphasising the must-play clause in his contract, while his coach, in the players' tunnel after Spurs' Christian Gross, insisted on his

right to drop Klinsmann. Klinsmann, signed until the coach his tactics were all wrong. end of the season, reiterated yesterday that he has a clause in his contract stating he can-

not be dropped.

clause in my contract. The player talked about it very much."

The pair had a stand-up row game against Bolton 11 days ago when Klinsmann told the Swiss

commitment and his approach imagined I would drop him. I will drop him," Gross said. "It Swiss newspaper. "I have this and intelligent enough to accept from him."

something like that. He won't leave Tottenham before the end of his contract.

"I have never had such an agreement with any player before but told him when I went out to Italy to sign him that I needed him as a leader. I agreed to the clause "If I'm not satisfied with his. in his contract because I never

"But he shouldn't talk to the is not a dilemma for me. There media about his contract be-"In theory I could say I was may be a game in which for a cause he is putting himself under leaving immediately and I would tactical reason I leave him out even more pressure. He is under get a free transfer," he told a but I think he is adult enough an obligation and we need goals FA Carlsberg Vase semi-finals

Non-League notebook By Rupert Metcalf

WHILE Arsenal are hoping to play at Wembley for commercial reasons, twelve chibs will tomorrow try to take the more traditional route to the Twin Towers - a route where pride and dreams matter more than money. The FA Umbro Trophy reaches the quarter-final stage while the first-leg games in the

also take place.

The capital will see the League for geographical and Sudbury Wanderers in the last sides from the Screwfix Direct

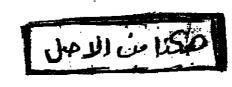
are also at home tomorrow, to . Batho, who have struck an bandit country". Tow Law. **Both Tiverton and Taunton** could probably hold their own in the GM Vanshall Conference from County Durham to Som- Dover. The Cumbrians may but both have chosen to turn erset will make a change from even have more supporters than

biggest invasion from the West economic reasons. They are two rounds. They will hope to Country since the Countryside the favourites to reach Wemb- do enough at Taunton to keep march 12 days ago if the two ley - but it will not be easy.

> amazing 79 goals between them in all competitions this season.

the tie alive for the second leg Kidsgrove, from Stafford- tomorrow week at their Iron-Western League in the last four shire, are prolific scorers. They works Road ground - in what of the Vase prevail. Twerton en- have three players, Scott Dun- one Suffolk newspaper detertain Kidsgrove while Taunton das, Paul Kiely and Richard scribed this week as "virtual In the Trophy, Barrow fans

will be filling at least 13 coach-For Tow Law, the long trip. es for the huge journey to down opportunities for pro- the road to Suffolk - they have the home team at the Crabble motion from the Western put out Sudbury Town and ground on the Kent coast.



Arwel out as Bowring reshuffles

Rugby Union

Y Chris Hewett

THERE'S gratitude for you. Kevin Bowring, the Welsh national coach, has repaid Arwel Thomas for his match-winning performance against Scotland by blowing him out of the squad for the Dragons' next Five Nations encounter in Dublin tomorrow week. Given that the gloriously unpredictable Swansea stand-off saved Bowring's bacon at Wembley six days ago, he must be feeling just a little non-plussed by the atest turn of events.

Neil Jenkins, whose early departure from the Scottish fray roved once and for all that a incly smack over the left eyebrow can be a better career move than 11 points with the boot and a try-scoring pass, reclaims the No 10 shirt while Byron Hayward, the outside-half from Ebbw Vale, is on the bench. Oue further change sees Stuart Davies, the in-form Swansea No 8, replace Scott Quinnell among the replacements.

"Control is extremely important and both Byron and Stuart provide that element," said Bowring by way of explanation. He did not mention class, vision skills, all of which are habitually provided by both Thomas and Quinnell. Pragmatic, yes, but natover happened to the spirof adventure?

At least Clive Woodward is backing himself to take a few calculated risks and push back the boundaries of Test selection. The England coach named a 27man squad for the Calcutta Cup confrontation with the Scots in Edinburgh on Sunday week and while two Newcastle veterans, Tony Underwood and Dean Ryan, earned themselves unexnected recalls, the presence of their teenage clubmate. Jon.,

likinson, created more of a stir. The 18-year-old outside-half has featured amongst the England élite before but, this time,

he is one of only two goal-kickers in the party. There was no word from Woodward on the potential make-up of his final 22-man squad but it is possible that despite his almost complete lack of Premiership experience, Wilkinson will sit on the Murrayfield bench as cover for Paul

Ryan's promotion, just reward for some uncompromising in-your-face displays over recent weeks, may be strictly temporary, both Tony Diprose and Tim Rodber are ahead of the Newcastle captain in the race to fill the back-row gap left by the injured Richard Hill

On the political front, Fran Cotton, vice-chairman of the Rugby Football Union management board, yesterday issued a passionate defence of the "Club England" document that has sent the owners of the leading Premiership outfits into paroxysms of unrestrained fury. There are a great deal of common objectives between us and they need to be discussed," he said. "It is not my intention to see the clubs go out of business."

Cotton did, however, reassert his plan to sign all leading players on RFU contracts and that, in itself, guaranteed a or consummate footballing prolonged punch-up between two deeply entrenched sides. "The tanks are lined up on the battlefield but we can still reach a solution before the shelling starts," he insisted. A wonderful thing, optimism.

Fifth Test: England captain on the defensive as West Indies counterpart is quick to take initiative



Lara rewarded for faith in demon double act

AS HE has already shown in his brief tenure as captain, Brian Lara is not one to be moved by convention.

If the visual and historical evidence suggested that it was a gamble to spurn the advantage of the toss and bowl, rather than bat first, it was one he was prepared to take.

Ten times in the past 11 Tests at the ground, captains have taken the same option. Seven have ended up on the losing side, including Richie Richardson when England gained their memorable triumph against the odds at Kensington Oval the last time round. There have been three first-class matches here this season. The only time the skipper has chosen to bowl on winning the toss, Guyana amassed 435 against Barbados and comfortably won.

Even though England's batsmen have been unmistakably vulnerable to spin throughout the tour - to Carl Hooper

TONY COZIER WEST INDIES VIEW

Tests, and the likes of Neil Mc-Garrell, Winston Reid and selectors stuck to accepted you, Thomson must." practice at Kensington Oval.

of the greats have been born and bred-Manny Martindale and Fleunan Griffith of a much earlier time, Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith, Joel Garner and Malcolm Marshall of more ers that undid Nasser Hussain recent vintage. It has become almost mandatory that a full quota of four bowlers who deal in speed are chosen here. Not since 1976 have the West Indies diverted from that tactic.

Once again, Lara's trusted

tiative and justified his daring, Curtly Ambrose had the strange experience of a wicketless opening spell but there is always Courtney Walsh to fill in when that happens. The Australians in the 1970s used to chant-Terry Rollock in the territori- menacingly. 'Ashes to ashes. al matches - he and his fellow dust to dust; if Lillee doesn't get

The same principle applies Barbados is the spiritual to the two great West Indians. home of West Indies fast bowl- Yet the fastest and most hostile ing. It is within the confines of assault in the morning was deits 166 square miles that many livered by Nixon McLean. Of course, he has the youth on his side that Ambrose and Walsh no longer do. Tall and powerfully built, he was quite a handful.

The two successive bouncbrought back vivid memories of the menacing West Indian attacks of the 1980s. Hussain just managed to sway out of the way of the first. He could not avoid the second, equally fast and accurate, and diverted it from his

Atherton reluctant to take risks

WHILE England's disastrous batting on the first morning may have lost them the fifth Test, the wretched decision to play Phil Tufnell and not the off-spinner Robert Croft had been made the night before. One heard that the sisted on the left-arm spinner.

Mike Atherton's instincts have always been defensive and this decision provided a much more valid reason to hasten the search for a successor as captain than his poor form with the bat.

This was a match he had to do all he could to win. There are five left handers in the West Indies side and Croft is a more attacking bowler than Tufnell. He showed, too, in the Barbados pitch will spin as the game goes on.

Apparently, the fellow se-. Tufnell. His reasons can only HENRY BLOFELD

ed Tufnell so that he could bowl over the wicket into the rough outside the left-handers' offcaptain refused to budge and in- left stump. He had been an admirable foil in this way to Angus Fraser four years ago. So Atherton's mind was

firmly fixed in the defensive mould from which he has seldom fought to break free. A a sell-out - is now doomed to long periods of boredom and stalemate as Tufnell has done nothing in this series than try and ample from the front. frustrate the batsmen into doing something stupid. In reply, the batsmen counter by contingame last weekend that this ually kicking the ball away which hardly makes good watching.

What made Atherton's decision to drop Croft particulectors, David Lloyd and John Jarly disappointing was that so Emburey, wanted Croft but the Las, with the greatest of Atherton was adamant about reluctance, taken one risk. the act of a man whose think-When he won the toss in Port ing has been muddled almost of Spain in the third Test, he

. This, it is true, may have been not so much a calculated risk by him as a decision he had forced on to him by a growing groundswell of opinion. England went stumps and the right-handers' on to win that Test by three wickets and one hopes his decision would have given Atherton the confidence to take a chance once more when the opportunity arose. Not a bit of it, and this inability to show any flexibility or even imagination must packed ground - this match is quicken the search for his successor. England are a poor side who need a strong guiding hand from a captain who leads by ex-

> And would a captain who was hell-bent on levelling this series have played that wet and gormless book at Courtney Walsh which gave Curtly Ambrose catching practice at fine leg? I did not blame Atherton for his first seven dismissals in this series, but the eighth was

Veteran Puerto Rican next for Hamed at the Nynex

NASEEM HAMED, the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, meets Wilfredo Vazquez, one of boxing's great survivors, at Manchester's Nynex Arena on 18 April.

The 37-year-old Puerto Ri-'s World Boxing Association wili also be at stake, prod he is allowed to delay his

manager, said yesterday: "The in March 1992. WBA meet in Atlantic City on Saturday and, hopefully, they will allow Wilfredo to defend against Hamed, especially as he has been such a credit to the WBA, winning world titles at three of their weights."

Vazquez, a professional for title bouts, won the WBA bantamweight championship from South Korea's Chan-Yong Park adatory defence against in October 1987 and took the rezuela's Antonio Cermeno. super-bantamweight crown

Felix Zabala, Vazquez's from the Mexican, Raul Perez,

He then beat Eloy Rojas, of Venezuela for the featherweight title in May 1996 and has made four successful defences, the latest against Nicaragua's Geniro Rios last November.

Vazquez, who was in London for yesterday's media confer- defence of his World Boxing 17 years, 60 fights and 20 world- ence, said: "I believe Hamed is an excellent fighter with a strong punch. It will be a hard fight. When I have to fight, I do and when I have to box I can do that just as well."

Hamed was not present but sent a message via the promoter Frank Warren, saying: "I have the greatest respect for Wilfredo as a fighter, but he is going to get knocked out."

The pay-per-view Manchester bill will also feature the Philippines' Luisito Espinosa's Council featherweight title against Cardiff's Steve Robinson and the WBO cruiserweight championship fight between Carl Thompson, of Manchester and Chris Eubank.

Ballesteros blown off course by Moroccan desert storm

By John Oaldey

SEVE BALLESTEROS, battling against a freak gale which forced play to be suspended for 90 minutes, admitted he had no chance of victory after playing just eight holes in the first round of the Moroccan Open

in Agadir yesterday. The Irishman Des Smyth had already equalled the course record of 64, eight under par, in dead calm conditions to lead

Ballesteros had even begun his round.

The weather was still ideal as the 40-year-old Spanish veteran began with a birdie four at the 10th hole and he hit his drive down the 11th with no knowledge of what was to come.

But then the wind got up alarmingly and Ballesteros, from one under par after one hole, went to nine over just seven holes later, playing his first eight holes in 41 shots.

After play had been sus-

the field by three shots before pended because balls on the greens were moving as players prepared to putt, Ballesteros just five holes. said: "It was fine playing the 10th hole but on the 11th all of

a sudden it was a hurricane. "It was hard to see. The sand was blowing into my face and at times I could see nothing. I was nine over for eight holes and I'm very disappointed because I have been playing very well. But now

the tournament is over for me." Ballesteros, after a bogey at the 11th, managed to par the short 12th to be level par for comment.

7, 4, 6, dropping nine shots in

"It would not have been so bad if we had started in a gale," said Ballesteros, "because then you would have been mentally prepared. But to go out in ideal conditions and then this,

well it's impossible." Many players thought that the tournament director, David Garland, should have suspended play at least half an hour earlier but Ballesteros refused to

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exquents sugas tract W W Wood bit A Thom-son 25-14; G Pobertson to D Cutier 25-12; R Co-sin bit G R Smith 18-13; A Manshall bit D Ward 22-13; D Gourtey bit G Harlow 93-15; R McCul-loch bit T Alcock 19-18; Scotland bit Iraliand 138-82 (Scotland eldpa Sirst); D Gourtey bit N Booth 25-11; R McCulloch bit G McCloy 22-17; W W Wood bit N Graham 18-12; G Robertson Is D Coylel 28-12; R Cornic bit J Sales 22-17; A Manshall bit S Allen 26-13.

Sri Lamka 295 for 8 (50 overs; R Amold 113, A Parastunga 80; North West 202 (472 overs; M Lawine 51; P A de Silva 5-44, Sri Lamke won by

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BL TL GARL

Football

Lawrie McMenemy has named the Nigerian-born Dele Adebola in his Northern Ireland squad for his first match in charge against Slovalda, at-ter he discovered the Eirmingham strik-er is qualified to play for any of the four home nations as a British passport hotelar.

Norwich City are to sign the veteran striker Paul Wilkinson from Milwall. John Rudge, the Port Vale manager, is set to sign Durdemines English centre half Dave Barnett today. The defender is due to speak to Rudge about a condition move. a £100,000 move. NORTHERN IRELAND SOLAD (Friendly v Sto-valda, Windsor Perk, Bellant, 25 March):

Lamon (Labester), Magiston (Sheffield Weches-chy), Gillespie (Nesscastid), M. Hughes (Win-bledon), McCarthy (Edmingham), Mulyrea (Manchester Unich, O'Boyle (St. Johnstone), Calan (West Borometr), Doele (CPF), Mickle-hon (St. Johnstone), Adebola (Birminghum), NATIONIWIDE Excession) NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Re-arranged date: Wed 1 Apr. Queen's Park Rampers v Withea from 4 Apr.

Golf

erisson (Ame). SCEN (LENYA OPEN) (kinincis) Leading first-nd accree (GB or in unless stated): 57 M xx, H Otto (SA), H Walters (SA), M Angleri y), A Marrasson (F), 68 T Netson (Nor), G ny, O Perk, C Hanal (SMS), F Lindgen (Sms), Nifer (Mark W Beangett (Switzer), S. Ges. Hockey

Paralympics WINTER GAMES (Nagano, Jopan) Winners: Alpho siting: Women's giant sleken: Blind 13 cines: K lipte (2-Reg) 2mt 4428ec. Blind 2 cines: M Amo (Sp) 2-58/II. Steld class: 1 \$ Rugby Union

Sailing Britain's Ben Ainsile, with a first and a 16th place finish yesterday, led the men's singlehanded laser class final on the penultimate day of the ISAF World Championships in Dubal, UAE Snooker

Squash SQUASH
REMAULT AUSTRIAN OPEN CHAMPIONISHIP
(Lics) Fixer round: P Neo! (Seo) bi G Finding
(Carl, Chamiller) S-6 S-6 S-5 S-4 Gough (Mail
KC Wallerbaser (Au) S-8 S-8 S-6 S-7 S-5
7, P Johnson (Eng) (A) bi S Partes (Eng) 8-8
7-2 S-2 S-5 S-5 S-1 D Jenson (Mail) bir M
Chalmar (Eng) S-3 2-5 S-1 S-12, C Waller
Fire in D Harris (Eng) S-6 S-8 S-4 A Baseda (Eg) bir D Parts (Eng) S-6 S-8 S-4 A Baseda (Eg) bir D Parts (Eng) S-6 S-8 S-2 M Cairus
(Eng) bir D Parts (Eng) S-6 S-8 S-2 M Cairus
(Eng) bir D Parts (Eng) S-7 S-8 S-8 S-1 P
5 S-12.

STRING GRAND TOURNIAMENT (Control Fifth day (cl. 15); Abrochu (son 3, lost 2) bt Nebburni (5-3); Cojoro 5-2) bt Hamanoshmis (3-4); As-aroussin (5-4) bt Mannouni (1-4); Mannouni (5-2) bt Kotoinszume (5-3); Terminesung (5-3) bt Nychusenhy (1-4); Gelstenhické (3-4); Mannouni (4-1); Control & 2-3) bt Assonouni (5-4); Resthy-

Tennis

K NEW'S CHAMPIONS CUP (Incl-

Today's fixtures Football OR MARTTENS LEAGUE SC Fareham v Havent (730). FRIENDLY MATCH: Fambu noutr XI (730).

Cricket FIFTH TEST MATCH (Second day, Inch Rugby Union

Basketbali Other sports

WITA TOUR EVERT CUP (Inc WITA TOUR EVERT CUP (inclum; Wells) Singles, quarter-finals; L'Owergont (LS) bit 8 Caste (LS) bit 7-6; M Hingle (Swit) bit O Mertines (Sp) 6-1 7-5; V Williams (US) bit J Kruger (SA) 6-1

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of cyclists, in-

129

cluding World Cup champion Michele Bartoll, who were aiminated from the Tirreno-Adriatico race yesterday after staging a go-slow and finishing more than 27 minutes behind stage winner Erik Zabel Rain had caused crashes, and when riders asked officials for help and were refused, the protest went ahead.



Henry Blofeld's West Indies Update

For the latest news. views and regular updates call Henry Blofeld's cricket line on:

0930 563 597

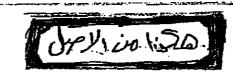
CRICKETLINE **WEST INDIES** V ENGLAND **VERY LATEST** NEWS & SCORES

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 11/3/98. The winning numbers: 16, 22, 23, 28, 33, 37. Bonus number: 17. Total Sales: £29.718.641. Prize Fund: £13,373,388 (45% of ticket sales).

Match 6 (Jackpot) £1,400,773 £4,202,319 Mêtch 5 plus bonus bel £1,293.017 Match 5 £1,712 Match 4 25,390 £70 £1.777.300 <u>£5</u>.292.000 TOTALS 555.076

> IT COULD BE YOU. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY in the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Campilet contrat computer system shed provail.



FA infuriated by Arsenal's bid for Wembley

By Guy Hodgson and Andrew Yates

WHEN Arsenal complained of feeling cramped in their Highbury home, a new stadium on the of the national stadium, £120m M25 or at King's Cross was envisaged. Instead they have infuriated the Football Association and even upset the Government by bidding for Wembley.

Yesterday Arsenal made an official offer to buy the ageing

fore had been described by Fifa, company there is no possibility football's world governing body, as the centrepiece of England's attempt to stage the World Cup of 2006. At a stroke a spanner was thrown in the works of that bid and in in the £240m funding of which was being provided by the National Lottery.

Arsenal are understood to may be prepared to go higher, but they would also have spend stadium which only the day be- an ageing ground. As a private quickly."

of them receiving lottery cash.

Coming just 24 hours after the Prime Minister gave goverment backing to the World Cup bid by meeting Fifa's president, João Havelange, the timing is an embarrassment to say the least. "I Arsenal and Wembley," Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, said have offered around £100m and yesterday, "and now we need to get this sorted by the end of the ley Stadium with Lottery monmonth. All I can add is that the many millions more to update matter needs to be clarified very

The FA also called for a swift resolution. "We have to assume they believe they are acting in the interests of their club and its supporters," its statement read. "However the Government and the rest of football have made it clear what we believe is in the their desperation to increase have spoken to various people at nation's interests. We have their 38,000 capacity. Ideally worked immensely hard with the they would prefer to expand English National Stadium Trust

mind between the two bids.

the new national stadium to begin next year. Negotiations continue." Arsenal's move stems from

Highbury but to do that they on the proposal to buy Wemband they have been thwarted by ey. So it is now up to the objections from local residents. Wembley board to make up its However a move to Wembley would not necessarily be backed

Council. That must be met to en- lington. All the same it will not the club statement could not have able the scheduled rebuilding of have escaped the attention of the club's vice-chairman, David Dein, that Arsenal's inclusion in any future European Super League could depend on the bums they can put on seats. In that light, Wembley's tradition as

> come very attractive. Yesterday's move might be seen as a move to put pressure on local councillors - or to low-

been less expansive: "The board of Arsenal Football Club has confirmed that it has made a proposal to Wembley pic to acquire the stadium."

Whatever the motives, the immediate winners were Wembley ple, which now has two bidders well as its 75,000 capacity befor its principal asset instead of the expected one. Sources suggest it is willing to sell to Arsenal at the right price. Its shares rose 14p er the price of the King's Cross to 364.5 yesterday and at one

"A deadline of 31 March has by many fans of a club which has site which had been gaining stage were up 22. A spokesman been set by the English Sports strong roots in Highbury and Is- credibility as an alternative - but for the leisure group said: "We remain committed to the national stadium project but we are in the curious position where we are a commercial organisation and have to bear in mind the interests of our shareholders. If people come to us with a proposal. we have to listen to it. We don's know what the figures are at the moment and it's not like a normal proposition where money is the bottom line. There are lots of elements to consider."

Highbury hubris, page 30

Ramprakash stands firm amid failure

Cricket

By Derek Pringle in Bridgetown, Barbados

England 163-5 v West Indies

ENGLAND'S cricketers, despite their fine showing here four years ago, have never taken to Barbados as happily as holidaymakers, who find their one lot are used to being danger of being roasted by and hostile fast bowling. lunch, as the West Indies fast bowlers once more demon-

from Jack Russell, prevented a some much needed resistance.

BRIDGETOWN SCOREBOARD

first-day rout after Michael Atherton had lost the toss.

the coin is legendary, Atherton's failure with the bat is a recent phenomenon, and another low score again meant his side were exposed without a steady platform to build upon.

As both captains had sug- probing with thunderbolts. gested long before the match began, the new ball was to Stewart. Tucking into a rare bad way here from Blighty. But if prove crucial, the extra bounce ball from Ambrose, Stewart, undoing both openers, as the cooked by the sun before din- home side resorted to their fa- pitch, was looking in fine fettle ner, the others were more in miliar strengths of accurate until Walsh, getting one to

It is not clear what Atherton strated their superiority on toss, but there was little wrong home soil and a pitch made for with the pitch after he and Alec Test cricket rather than a lottery. Stewart, greeted by a tu-This was back to the multuous roar, walked out to Caribbean cricket of recent his- open the innings. In fact, there Four overs later, Atherton, toptory; brutal, fast and unstinting was little wrong with it two fast bowling by men seemingly hours later, when England taller than giants. The average lunched on 55 for 4, a situation partner back to the pavilion, his age of the home side may have made even less promising by risen to over 30, but they smell Graham Thorpe's retirement an opening just as a child can from a back spasm. He appar- shot that brought his downfall. small sweets, and only another ently suffered it as he ducked unplucky half-century by Mark der one of the many bouncers Ramprakash, his second in suc- being directed England's way. cessiuve Tests, and a spirited 32 Thorpe later returned to offer

The omens had looked good for England as they got off to Although his failure with a cracking start, but Walsh and Ambrose are not two of the leading wicket takers in history for nothing. On even paced pitches like this one, they feel their way into a situation, not tentatively, but like Greek Gods

For once the pressure got to clearly at home on this Oval-like bounce from short of a length, had him caught behind by would have done had he won the David Williams. By the Surrey man's impeccable standards it was a soft dismissal.

Predictably, the wicket sent the fast men into overdrive. edging Walsh to Ambrose at long leg, followed his opening run of low scores clearly forcing him into the ambitious hook

It is never easy captaining a side when you are barely contributing yourself and Atherton, averaging 13 from his eight Test innings so far, will have had his normally lucid thoughts scrambled by searching for cures to his batting malaise.

The same can probably be applied to his vice-captain, Nasser Hussain, who, since his brilliant 61 in the first of the Trinidad matches, has not made a significant score. Bedevilled by some poor decisions, as well as some poor shots. Hussain has clearly misplaced some of his bravado with the bat. Swaying inside a fast bouncer from Nixon McLean, his second in as many balls, Hussain's only crime was to leave his gloves too high, the ensuing ricochet neat-



Michael Atherton's hook is his last shot in the first innings as the England captain was caught Photograph: David Ashdown

By now the potency of the new ball had begun to wane. But if it became less easy to dismiss batsmen, England suffered almost as badly when Thorpe ricked his back. Twice treated on the field by the England physic Wayne Morton, Thorpe soldiered on until lunch, by which time England, reeling at 53 for 4, had also lost Mark Butcher.

Thorne was clearly in agony and with the Surrey left-hander temporarily retiring hurt, it was left to the out of form Jack Russell to partner the in-form Mark

ion like a gunfighter emerging from the "Last Chance Saloon." He started batting like one too. blazing away with a series of

out feeling pressured into keeping the scoreboard ticking over.

Once he was in, the roles began to be reversed as Ramprakash, at last finding the gaps as well as his timing, began to outscore Russell, who had retreated into his shell. The change was to prove ominous for England, and when the pair had added 76 runs, Russell, pushing forward to Hooper, souirted one off bat and pad to

Contenders to stage the World Cup? Tomorrow it could be Malta

ON Wednesday he met Tony Blair and said his "personal wish" was that England should be given it. Three months ago he told South Africa they had only to ask for it, while the Germans say they were promised it five years ago.

The right to stage the 2006 World Cup is not quite within the personal gift of João Havelange, but countries usually expect the president of Fifa, football's governing body, to give a fair indication of which way the wind is blowing. Yesterday, however, the cynics were pouring scorn on the 81-year-old Brazilian.

You cannot take him seriously any longer." Wolfgang Niersbach, a spokesman for the German football federation, said. "I don't know where he's going next, but if it's Malta then he'll say Malta should stage the World Cup."

Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, the European game's ruling body, called Havelange "a dictator" and said he was "endangering his life's work".

Johansson said he had been present in 1993 when Havelange promised the 2006 competition to Germany. He also said that other European nations including England - had agreed to support the German bid. "If the English suddenly cannot remember their word of honour, then as Uefa president I am powerless," he said.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Umpires: C J-Mitchlev and E Nicholis

To bat: A R Caddick, D W Headley, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnel.

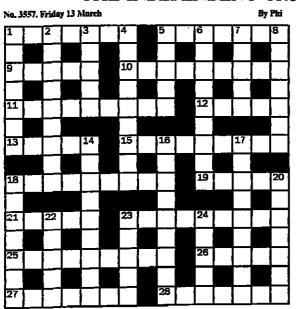
Bowling (to data): Walah 12-4-35-2
(9-3-24-2, 3-1-11-0): Ambrosa 12-4-20-1
(nb w1) (4-3-5-0, 8-1-15-1): MicLean
9-1-32-1 (6-1-19-1, 3-0-13-0); Hooper 15-5-24-1 (3-2-1-0, 12-3-23-1); Bishop 8-0-31-0, 19-5 (yrea per 16-13-16).

Progress: First day: 50: 94 min, 20 overs. Lunch: 55-4 (Thorpe 5, Ram-prakash 2) 26 overs. Thorpe retired hurt

at the fall of the fifth wicket, 100: 18

ar the fail of the filth wicket, 1000; 187
rifth, 413 overs.
WEST INDIES: C B Lambert, P A Wal-lace, *B C Lara, S Chanderpaut, C L
Hooper, R I C Holder, †D Williams, I R
Bishop, C E L Ambrose, N A M McLean, C A Walsh.

0-31-0 (nb5) (one soell).



Produced drop in final instalment of ground rent

Cast includes one British 25

relative (7) Scots river still associated 26 with Loch (5) 10 Match is abandoned after City's netted - some ques- 27

tions asked (9) 11 A friend given to black porcelain (4.5) 12 Attendant has right communications device (5)

What water-sportsman may use following boat (5) 2 15 All the runners stumble Some investigation needed 3

Car that's crashed in the 4 Drinks last of ale in error 5

21 In due course one gets out

. . 7

of marketing in recession 6 British want to hit judo ex- 7 Most broil when this volcano erupts! (9)

footballing organisation Demand and take heart

Girl's revolutionary in

from lady – but nicely (7) Composer of French sto-

ries about Baron (7) feature of jacket I have (9) Criticise one beginning to cause alarm (5) Deft clue I concocted is misleading (9) Religious text confused more than half of Aus-

tralia (5)

Show signs of withdrawing support for the feet? (4-5) Covering for one Conserv ative in Government (5) Doctor among sick group is a sweetie (7)

How to describe non-computer-based societies? Not at all (3,4,2) Trees reflecting silent chill 16 More to play when minor (7) actor appears? (5,4) Theatre company be-

grudge display (9) Puts on screen: "Everyone's entering the compe-Ingenious and fashionable 20 Try opening in Ural Sea, feature of jacket I have (9) possibly (7) Attempt to go round one

Italian city (5) One sweeping up runs in a successful period (5)
Some weak fakery showed up an author (5)

by Curtly Ambrose for II runs in Bridgetown yesterday

ly taken by a leaping Brian Lara Ramprakash. A fighter who no doubt realises that he was perhaps fortunate to be selected, Russell came out of the pavil-

> pulls and cuts. The momentum was just what England needed. Apart from causing the West Indies to pause for thought, it allowed Ramprakash, missed by Ambrose off his own bowling when on two, to play himself in with-

Clayton Lambert at short-leg. It was the moment Thorpe, his back spasm having been eased or dulled by painkillers, chose to return to the fray.

Tony Cozier and Henry Blofeld, page 31

McLaren ponder Coulthard and Hakkinen's handshake

Motor racing

McLAREN will discuss whether to continue the controversial agreement between the Formula One team's drivers. Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard, before the Brazilian Grand Prix.

A McLaren spokeswoman said Hakkinen and Coulthard's first and second place at the Australian Grand Prix, after Coulthard had waved his teamdecide if it should continue. mate through, was a "freak occurrence and is unlikely to happen again".

"We will try to avoid a similar situation and hopefully [the agreement] will not be necessarv," she added.

The two drivers, on the front team would not be punished for fore the race that whoever led team principal, Ron Dennis, insisted.

at the first corner would not be said other teams were embarchallenged by the other driver. rassed that they had not fol-Hakkinen reached the cor- lowed McLaren's lead in ner first but made an unnecesdeveloping their brake system.

sary pit stop, leaving Coulthard Six teams made an official in the lead. However, the Scot complaint on the eve of the Ausdecided to let his team-mate tralian Grand Prix, asking the through in light of their agree-FIA to look into the system ment, a decision which angered which they claimed gave the race organisers and punters. McLaren cars illegal traction The agreement was due to control and power steering. cover the Brazilian Grand Prix

McLaren said the system had on 29 March, but the team will already been used in a race car at the end of last season and the "When we get out to Brazil team had kept the FIA informed we will have to discuss it. The throughout its development to Objective for the team must be ensure it was "perfectly legal". to come away with as many.

"Some teams complain, they do not have the money to develop something like this but it's FIA, announced on Monday the more accurate for them to say: 'We do not have the brains'. And row of the grid, had agreed be- the agreement. The McLaren that's not my problem," Dennis

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points as possible," she said.

The sport's ruling Lady, the

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